

It's Messy

September 4, 2022

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:1-14

Introduction:

Big Idea: In the midst of our _____ lives, God wants you & me to _____ in Him and not in ourselves.

1. Your spiritual condition _____ (1-4)

- God loves you and wants to pursue a relationship with you.
- What you do with rebellion/sin in your life matters. God desires for your weakness to be overcome by his power.

2. Assess your own _____ (5-6)

- “examine” involves making proof of something
 - Matthew 22:35 – to test him (same word)
 - To examine yourself is to consider what your life is proving.
 - Do the patterns of your life prove that your faith is genuine?
- Every Christian’s body becomes the dwelling place of God at the point of salvation.
- Questions to Examine Yourself: Jerry Bridges’ book, *Who Am I? Identity in Christ*, chapter 5
 1. What is my attitude toward God? Do I gladly acknowledge my dependence on him and my accountability to him?
 2. What is my attitude toward my sin? Am I concerned or indifferent about it?
 3. What is my attitude toward Jesus Christ? Do I trust him as the one who dies for my sin on the cross?
 4. What is my attitude toward the Bible? Do I truly want to grow in my understanding and application of it in my life?
 5. What is my attitude toward prayer? Do I also want to grow in this area of my life, or am I quite content to see prayer as an occasional call out to God for help?
 6. What is my attitude toward other Christians? Do I appreciate being with them and learning from them, or do I actually prefer the company and lifestyle of my non-Christian friends?

3. Leaders exist to help you know _____ you stand, and to help you to _____ (7-10)

- Three traits of a good spiritual leader
 - **Spiritual leaders care more about serving than they do about their rights (8)**
 - **Spiritual leaders want to help you grow (9)**
 - Hebrews 13:17
Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
 - **Spiritual leaders combine love and authority in their care for you (10)**

4. Final Greeting – prayer (11-14)

TRUTH INTO ACTION:

- Gospel ministry IS MESSY...but **IT’S ETERNALLY WORTH IT!**
- It was wise for the Corinthian believers to examine themselves...**YOU AND I SHOULD AS WELL!**
- There are only two paths to journey in life...**WALK THE WAY OF GOD!**

CONNECT CARD:

- Rate your spiritual condition today
 - DEAD – SICK – GROWING & HEALTHY
- How can we pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Tell a story of someone encouraging you through a difficulty.

Scriptures to Examine Your Heart:

It is vital to determine if our walk matches our talk. Many profess Christianity by knowledge about God or their morality or by their involvement in various ministries within their church. They may base it on a prayer they once said, or look to things like their baptism as a basis for saving faith. Read through these passages and answer the questions:

- Matthew 7:20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
 - Question: Describe the “fruit” of your life. When you look at your life what do you see?
- Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - Question: Are these “fruit” growing in your life? Do those closest to you see the life of God being unleashed in your daily journey through the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
- Ephesians 2:8–9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - Question: Are you trusting in your salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone? How so?
- James 2:17–18 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
 - Question: Is your faith a one day a week event or an everyday – all day/week long relationship that profoundly influences your moment by moment response and decisions?

“We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone.”
--Martin Luther

Closing Prayer: Thank you Father for pursuing me. Now help me to take serious my spiritual condition by checking the health of my spiritual life. Help me to live for your purposes and plans with every breath I take. Amen!