Sermon Outline

New Here?

TEXT to connect (269-280-2878): Text **"welcome"** if you are new, or **"prayer"** if you would like prayer.

November 15, 2026 **"Discerning Genuine Believers"** Matthew 7:21-23
Pastor Corey Kugle

Introduction

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) - Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

1. **A Profession of Faith Alone Doesn't Make One a True Follower of Christ** (v. 21a)

   A. Calling Jesus "Lord" is *not* proof of genuine faith

      i. Even the demons "believe" and use the right words to acknowledge who Jesus is (Jam. 2:19; Matt. 8:29; Mk. 1:24)

   B. There are true and false followers of Christ – each will be revealed

      i. Parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)

      ii. The sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46)

      iii. The parable of the weeds (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

      iv. The parable of the net (Matt. 13:47-50)

2. **Actions, Not Words are the Mark of a True Follower of Christ** (v. 21b)

   A. Contrast: saying vs. doing

   B. We are made right with God by grace and through faith (Eph. 2:8-9), yet true faith is demonstrated in obedience (Eph. 2:10; Jn. 14:15; Matt. 12:50; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 8:31-32; 1 Jn. 2:3-6; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

3. **Religious Activities/Accomplishments Do Not Make One a True Follower of Christ** (v. 22)

A. "Many" will appeal to their religious activities as proof of their genuine faith on "that day" – Day of Judgment (Mal. 3:17-18; Lk. 10:12; 2 Tim. 2:12)

i. Prophesying (Matt. 7:15; 24:11)

ii. Casting out demons

iii. Miracles

B. Religious activities/accomplishments cannot be a substitute for obedient living.

i. Judas (Matt. 10:1-4)

4. **Jesus' Authority and Judgment Upon the False** (v. 23)

A. The false will not fool Jesus on the Day of Judgment

i. True followers of Christ cannot lose their salvation (Jn. 10:27-29)

ii. The false are "evil doers" who were never truly born again (Ps. 6:8)

B. Recognize the claim of Jesus: He is God and Judge!

Take Action

- Evaluate your life and where you stand with Christ (2 Cor. 13:5)
- Trust in Jesus -- our Advocate (1 Jn. 2:1-2)
- Grace not only saves, but transforms/trains/empowers us to live godly, obedient lives (Titus 2:11-14)

What's Next?

- November 22, "*The Only Firm Foundation*" – Matthew 7:24-29, Pastor Luke Young
- November 24, "*A Night To Give Thanks*"

**New Series* - The Songs of Christmas, Luke 1 & 2*

- November 29, "*Mary's Song*" – Luke 1:46-55, Pastor Corey Kugle