

A Self-Evaluation

One of the toughest things to do is to be honest with yourself...

I used to think that my teachers at school and my supervisors at work had too much power. After all, they had the opportunity to critically evaluate my performance. There were times when I thought that the grade I received in a class wasn't fair. I can even remember one occasion when I felt that my supervisors' evaluation of my work was unjust. Being evaluated by someone else can be an uncomfortable experience. But even more challenging is the process of evaluating yourself because let's face it—it's tough to be unbiased, objective and honest when looking in the mirror. Most of us are either way too easy or way too hard on ourselves. Your task in this lesson is to honestly and fairly evaluate your performance in terms of your current relationship with God. Let's take a look and see what kind of marks you'll give yourself...

God's Expectations

Some of the things God expects us to do...

- *Love the Lord*
– Matthew 22:37
- *Worship God in Spirit and in Truth*
– John 4: 23-24
- *Love your neighbor*
– Matthew 22:38
- *Use your gifts for the work of God*
– Romans 12: 6-8
- *Love your enemies*
– Luke 6:27
- *Gain knowledge of the Word and do what it says*
– James 1: 22-25
- *Trust in God*
– John 14: 1
- *Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ*
– Matthew 28: 18-20

Evaluating Yourself

How are you performing?

Make note of each area in which you can improve...

- *Do I love God with all my heart, soul and mind? Do my actions show that I love God?*
- *Am I worshipping God as I should?*
- *Is my communication with God what it should be?*
- *Do I love my neighbor as myself? Am I kind and compassionate to others?*
- *Are my talents being used for Godly purposes?*
- *Do I love my enemies?*
- *Am I studying the Word of God as I should? Am I in attendance at Church so that I can listen to the Word? Am I being obedient to God?*
- *Do I totally trust God when things get tough in my life? Do I respect God's authority to decide what is best for my life?*
- *Am I taking the time to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others? Do I give Godly advice and counsel to my loved ones, family and friends?*

God's Instructions

Some of the things God instructs us not to do...

- *Have other gods before Him*
- *Make idols*
- *Misuse His name*
- *Forsake the Sabbath Day*
- *Dishonor our father or our mother*
- *Murder*
- *Commit Adultery*
- *Steal*
- *Give false testimony (lie)*
- *Covet things that belong to our neighbor*
 - Exodus 20: 1-17
- *Seek revenge*
 - Matthew 5: 38-39
- *Be sexually immoral*
- *Dabble in witchcraft*
- *Hate*
- *Have discord*
- *Be Jealous*
- *Have fits of rage*
- *Be selfishly ambitious*
- *Have dissensions and factions*
- *Be envious*
- *Get drunk*
- *Participate in orgies*
 - Galatians 5: 19-26

Evaluating Yourself

How are you performing?

Make note of each area in which you can improve...

- *Do I put other gods (or things) before God?*
- *Do I misuse God's name?*
- *Am I keeping the Sabbath Day holy?*
- *What is my relationship like with my father and mother?*
- *Do I murder, commit adultery, steal, lie or covet?*
- *Am I seeking revenge?*
- *Am I fornicating or participating sexually immoral conduct?*
- *Do I have hatred toward or discord with anyone?*
- *Am I jealous, envious or selfishly ambitious?*
- *Do I get drunk?*
- *Do I have fits of rage and anger that are out of control?*

The Wise Builder and The Foolish Builder

Christ says that we are wise when we hear God's Word and do what it instructs us to do. On the other hand, Christ says that we are foolish when we hear God's Word and do not do what it tells us to do.

Matthew 7: 24-27

Questions For Thought:

In what areas of your life are you being wise?

In what areas of your life are you being foolish?

True Priorities

- *In terms of how you are currently living your life, rank the following in order of importance to you:*

- My Family (*responsibility to and relationship with loved ones*)
- My Education or Career (*personal goals and dreams*)
- God (*Church, relationship with God, salvation*)
- Myself (*enjoying life and doing what pleases self*)

Matthew 6:33

Question for Thought: Is God truly my top priority?

Living my life in a way that pleases God is top priority...

If someone had asked me several years ago when I was a graduate student, "What is your top priority?" I would have surely answered, "God". The truth was that while in my heart I felt God was my top priority—the reality was that I was spending most of my time, energy and thoughts on finishing graduate school! One day, I realized that school had taken priority over God. Fortunately, I woke up and concluded that it made no sense to prioritize my education and career over where I would spend eternity!

The demands of this life and our pursuit of the things we want have a way of dominating our time and attention. We must realize that everything this life has to offer is temporary. 100 years from now, our daily stressors, accomplishments, material possessions and bank accounts will be meaningless. The only thing that really matters is our relationship with God. Sadly, there are many people who will spend their lives on self-fulfillment and will delay or completely ignore preparing themselves for eternity. Enjoy life, accomplish great things, build wealth—but don't allow yourself to be distracted from what is really important.

*Mark 8: 36-37
Ecclesiastes 12:13*

Question for Thought: What in my life has taken priority over God?

God rejoices when we change our lives for Him...

The truth is that we all have something we can improve upon in terms of our relationship with God. The good news is that no matter how short we have fallen in the past, He is anxiously waiting to receive us when we decide to do better in the future...

Luke 15: 1-10

Question for Thought:

When will I commit to making a change for the better?

Summary of My Self-Evaluation Things I Plan to Work On...

Now that you have completed your self-evaluation, you certainly have identified some things that you can improve upon. Your next step is to commit to making changes in your life. Even one life adjustment will certainly improve your relationship with God. Your adjustments should be based upon those things you made note of during this study. Here are some examples of commitments you can make to yourself and God. Commit to one or two changes for now—and watch your life transform.

- Begin to attend Church regularly
- Volunteer to assist someone in need
- Consistently participate in the study of God's Word
- Repair a broken relationship with a loved one
- Avoid a situation which might cause you to sin
- Spend more time in prayer
- Be committed to being honest
- Reach out to your enemy
- Use your talent for a Godly purpose
- Begin sharing the Word of God
- Invite a friend to participate in this online bible class with you

Develop an Action Plan

Making life changes can be challenging, but through a deeper connection with God you will find the strength you need to succeed. Once you've committed to improving in one area of your life, build upon that and add another area. Soon you will find yourself transforming into the person that God would have you to be.

Join us for our next Bible lesson...