



[2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

(5) Examine yourselves *to* see whether you are in the faith; prove your own selves. Don't you *of* your own selves know that Jesus Christ is in you? Otherwise, you are reprobates.

A Faithful Version

Examine yourselves - Paul advises in [Galatians 6:3-4](#): "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." The Greek word for *examine* here is *dokîmázô*, which means, according to *Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, "'to test, prove,' with the expectation of approving." It can also indicate "to discern" or "to distinguish," suggesting proving whether a thing is worthy or not.

The Living Bible adds clarity to [Galatians 6:4](#): "Let everyone be sure that he is doing his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work well done and won't need to compare himself with someone else." We realize it is unwise to compare ourselves with others ([II Corinthians 10:12](#)), but there is no *need* to compare ourselves with anyone else if we seek God's help in making the inner secrets of our hearts plain to us through His Spirit! Then, we can work on changing what [God](#) reveals that He is concerned about in us.

In other words, if we sincerely, with our whole hearts, ask Almighty God to make us understand the depths of our beings, *He is faithful* to do it. It is then our responsibility to be prepared to [repent](#) fully of what God makes plain to us. This is an easy process to describe, but often hard to follow through on. Nevertheless, it is part of a continuing process in the life of any Christian who wishes to draw closer to God; it is our work. We are required to exert effort - sometimes a great deal of effort, even painful effort - to assure our entrance into God's Kingdom (see, for instance, [Philippians 2:12](#); [Colossians 1:23](#); [II Peter 1:10-11](#)). We cannot leave this labor undone!

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for 2 Corinthians 13:5 (<http://www.theberean.org>)
— Staff

To learn more, see:

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