

A Real Believer or a Make Believer

Are you a Possessor or a Professor from Titus 1:15-16

Introduction:

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!

- One - don't be a _____
Two - don't live in _____
Three - don't rely on _____ or past _____
Four - don't be a _____

#1. Prove the _____ of phoniness and self-deception.

1st - The _____ of Jesus prove you could be a phony or self-deceived

- Turn to Matthew 22:11ff
- Turn to Matthew 25:6ff

2nd - The _____ of those in the church prove you could be a phony or self-deceived

3rd - The example of the _____ proves you could be phony or self-deceived

Matthew 23:5 they do all their deeds to be noticed by men...28 ... you ... outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness

4th - Counterfeit _____ prove even Christian practices can be phony

5th - The _____ of Jesus prove you can think you're going to heaven but end up in Hell

Matthew 7: 20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'

6th - The example of _____ proves you can be close to Jesus and trusted by believers yet still be lost

John 13:26 Jesus answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

John 13:29 For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor.

7th - The theology of demons proves you can have a solid biblical _____ yet not be saved

James 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Matthew 8:29 "What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

8th - The _____ of scripture prove you can be deceived into thinking you're headed toward heaven but still end up in hell.

• Turn to 1 Corinthians 6:9ff

#2. Look for evidence of true _____ or phony _____

1st - The _____ evidence shows the difference between a real believer and a make believer.

Luke 11:37-41, Jesus...went in, and reclined at the table. 38 And when the Pharisee saw it, he was surprised that He had not first ceremonially washed before the meal. 39 But the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. 40 "You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? 41 "But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.

Luke 16:15 You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

2nd - The _____ evidence shows the difference between a real believer and a make believer

As Jesus says you will know them by their fruits.

As James says, their faith without works is dead

As Paul says, the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

As Paul says in verse 16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him

• Only Jesus can make any deed into a good deed

Titus 2:14 [Jesus] who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

#3. The best tests for _____ the genuineness of a person's _____

Test #1. Are you _____ by the Spirit of Christ?

2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test?

- How know? Matthew 7:20 you will know them by their fruits.
- What is fruit? Galatians 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;
- Totally new 2 Corinthians 5:17 if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- Want to obey Romans 6:17 thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed

Test #2. Do you _____ Jesus in front of others

Matthew 10:32 Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father

Test #3. Do you openly _____ and repent of sin

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Test #4. Do you _____ others sacrificially?

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Test the level of your love: Rate yourself

- 1-You love yourself
- 2-you love those you get something from
- 3-you love those who love you
- 4-you love those in need or
- 5-you loves those who don't love you

Test #6. Has your life dramatically _____ ?

- Look at your _____,
Matthew 6:21 where your treasure is, there will your heart be also
- Look at your _____,
Matthew 12:34 the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
- Look at your _____,
1 John 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him
- Look at your willingness to _____,
Luke 14:27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
Matthew 10:38 he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Conclusion:

1. A word of _____

2. A word of _____

3. A word of _____

For further study, read through the book of 1 John or the book of James, both are written to give Christians assurance [note 1 John 5:13 and James 5:19-20]