

Examine Yourself

Introduction:

1. _____-examination is a biblical concept that is taught throughout God's Word and is especially important when we are involved in a dispute or embroiled in a conflict. 1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 6:1; Psalm 26:2, 139:23-24
2. Until we have dealt with our own faults, it will prove very difficult to resolve any conflict.
3. In this lesson, we will learn the steps we can take to go through the process of examining ourselves.

First, be honest about your own _____.

1. One of the turning points in David's life was when he said, "*For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me.*" Psalm 51:3
2. Most of us do not like to _____ that we have sinned. So what do we do?
3. Whenever we refuse to face up to our sins, we will eventually pay an unpleasant price. David discovered this. Psalm 32:3-5
4. If it is difficult for you to identify and confess your wrongs, there are two actions you can take to assist you in the process:
 - Ask God to help you to _____ your sin clearly and to repent of it, regardless of what others may do. Proverbs 28:13
 - Ask for the candid insights and advice of a spiritually mature _____. Proverbs 27:5-6

Second, apply Ephesians 4:29 to your _____.

1. When involved in a conflict, we need to apply Ephesians 4:29 to ourselves, and ask ourselves **what** we have been saying **to** and **about** our opponents. Have we uttered:
 - _____ **words** (Proverbs 29:20)

- _____ **words** (Philippians 2:14)
 - _____ **words** (Ephesians 4:25)
 - _____ **words** (Proverbs 11:13, 16:28, 17:9, 26:20)
2. Sinful tongues contribute greatly to conflict.

Third, ask yourself, “Have I fulfilled my responsibilities?”

1. Sometimes conflict can be caused by our _____ sinful behavior, and not heeding our obligations and responsibilities.
2. Ask yourself, “Have I completely and fully kept my _____?”
 - God demands that we live _____ lives. Romans 12:17, 13:13; 2 Corinthians 8:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:12
3. Ask yourself, “Have I shown proper _____ towards authority, or abused my authority?”
4. Ask yourself, “Have I applied the _____ Rule?” Matthew 7:12
 - Any time you see that you would not want someone else to treat you the way you are presently treating others, you need to _____ what you are doing.

In Conclusion:

1. Whenever we are involved in a conflict, it is important to consider whether we may be contributing to the problem, either directly or indirectly.
2. In some cases, we may have _____ the controversy.
3. In other cases, we may have aggravated a dispute by failing to respond to another person in a _____ way.
4. Before focusing on others in a conflict, it is always wise to first examine yourself!