

Christian Drivers
10-02-16 AM

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?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Perhaps one of the important distinctions between one who is a true disciple of Christ versus one who is a Christian in name only is the ability to undergo a self-examination to ascertain the veracity of their faith. This self-exam is not a one time process, but a constant action. Here are some suggestions as to the “test” we might take?

- #1 - Are you kind and peaceable? James 3:18, Hebrews 10:24
- #2 - Do you live in peace with the authority of our land? Romans 13:1-8
- #3 - Do you return good for evil? 1 Thessalonians 5:15
- #4 - Are you slow to anger? James 1:19
- #5 - Have we put away evil speaking? Ephesians 4:31

What do these virtues have in common? These are virtues seen by the world in our day to day interactions. These fulfill our obligation to live in peace (Romans 14:19, 15:2). People may not get the chance to ascertain our biblical knowledge, but just in a brief meeting these virtues are demonstrated.

How should we apply this test? We might consider our work. Our behavior on the internet (places such as Facebook or Twitter, for example) is also a place where either our light shines or we demonstrate an inner darkness. Maybe it is in our conduct with our church family or biological family. Maybe it is in something as mundane as paying taxes. But there is one area which we spend an average of an hour a day (per Harvard Health Watch study, Americans average 101 minutes a day). It tends to be somewhere that we forget to put on the virtues of living in peace. What is this lost opportunity?

Driving.

Let us revisit our test and apply the questions directly to this part of our life.

- #1 - Are you a kind and peaceable DRIVER?
- #2 - Do you DRIVE in peace within the authority of our land?
- #3 - Do you return good for evil when DRIVING?
- #4 - Are you slow to anger when DRIVING?
- #5 - Have we put away evil speaking DRIVING?

Let us have an honest moment with ourselves – driving is often a place where we take off Christ and put on the world. In the way we behave and speak, we often cease to live in a manner

befitting Christ and live just like the rest of the world (ironically, this is a time where we are MORE likely to meet our maker).

Why is it that we let this (or other) parts of our lives assume a worldly demeanor? Maybe it is because everyone else drives for themselves, and we just move along with the crowd. We forget that we are supposed to be separate from the world in EVERY way, including this worldly fashion. Maybe it is because we get no “credit” in our estimation for Christ like conduct. In other words, no one sees our behavior as a person, but instead just a car, and we think that our conduct is not ours. Jesus reminds us that when we do what is right, we are not doing it to be seen of men; “your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:4). Sometimes we take of Christ behind the wheel because we think that we are worse off for not doing it; how many times do we believe that if we do not drive with this worldly mindset we will be in jeopardy? But does not the Scripture tell us that “*even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed*” (1 Peter 3:14)?

As a called out people, we are to be different; this is the ultimate test of being a Christian. “*Be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing*” (1 Peter 3:8-9. Every part of our life is “in Christ”. We need to consider that driving is a part of our life, even when we are “anonymous” in our conduct. We are judge by what our Father witnesses.