



# Examine Yourself: The Characteristics of a Genuine Christian

2 Corinthians 13:5

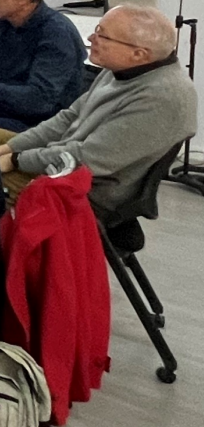
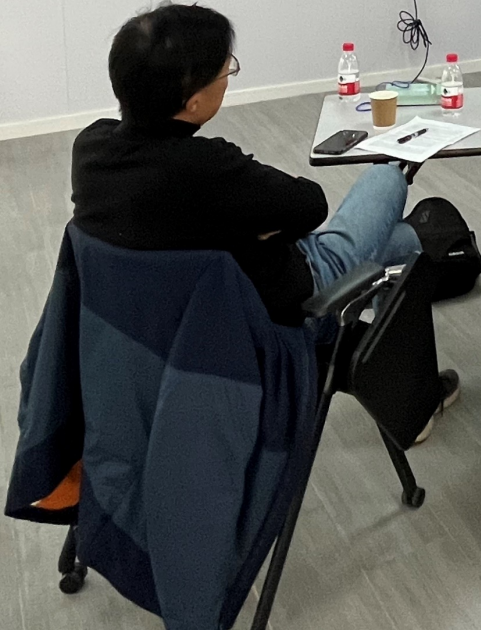
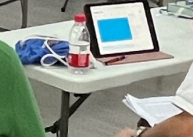












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**What makes a Genuine Christian? What sets our faith in Jesus apart from others?**

**Are we Genuine with God in our relationship as we go into this new year?**





# Matthew 7:21-23

**21 “Not everyone** who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one 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 drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23** Then I will tell them plainly, **‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**



## 2 Corinthians 13:5

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Do not make assumptions that we are saved, the Word of God Encourages us to reflect and test our relationship with God!



# Roadmap

Examine Yourself! 2 Corinthians 13:5

## The Genuine Christian:

- 1. Loves Jesus**
- 2. Has a testimony of Christ Work in His Life**
- 3. Has an internal spiritual struggle**
- 4. Pursues Holiness**
- 5. Loves those in the Body of Christ**





# I. Loves Jesus

First point: Loving Jesus is **NOT about how you feel** about your salvation. You need to look at God's Word and then look at our lives.



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Always examine yourself in light of God's words!!



# I. Loves Jesus

**John 14:23** → <sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me **will obey my teaching**. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

**2 John 1:6** → <sup>6</sup> And this is love: **that we walk in obedience to his commands**. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

**1 John 2:3** → We know that we have come to know him if **we keep his commands**



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There is a direct correlation with LOVING THE LORD and OBEYING HIS WORD



# I. Loves Jesus

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Loving Jesus is **not just a subjective feeling.** Our obedience can be measured by how often and consistently we study God's word personally and in Bible Study.

**How often do you study the Bible?** Do you have a small group to keep you accountable? → BSF, our small group ministries.



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**1 Cor. 3:6-7** → <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.



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2. If you Love Him, you **must bear fruit** that your community sees! (John 15)



## II. Has a testimony of Christ Work in His Life

Every Believer has a story of how God worked in their life. How he moved us from living one way, to living in a completely different way

**2 Corinthians 5:17** → Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Galatians 2:20** → I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

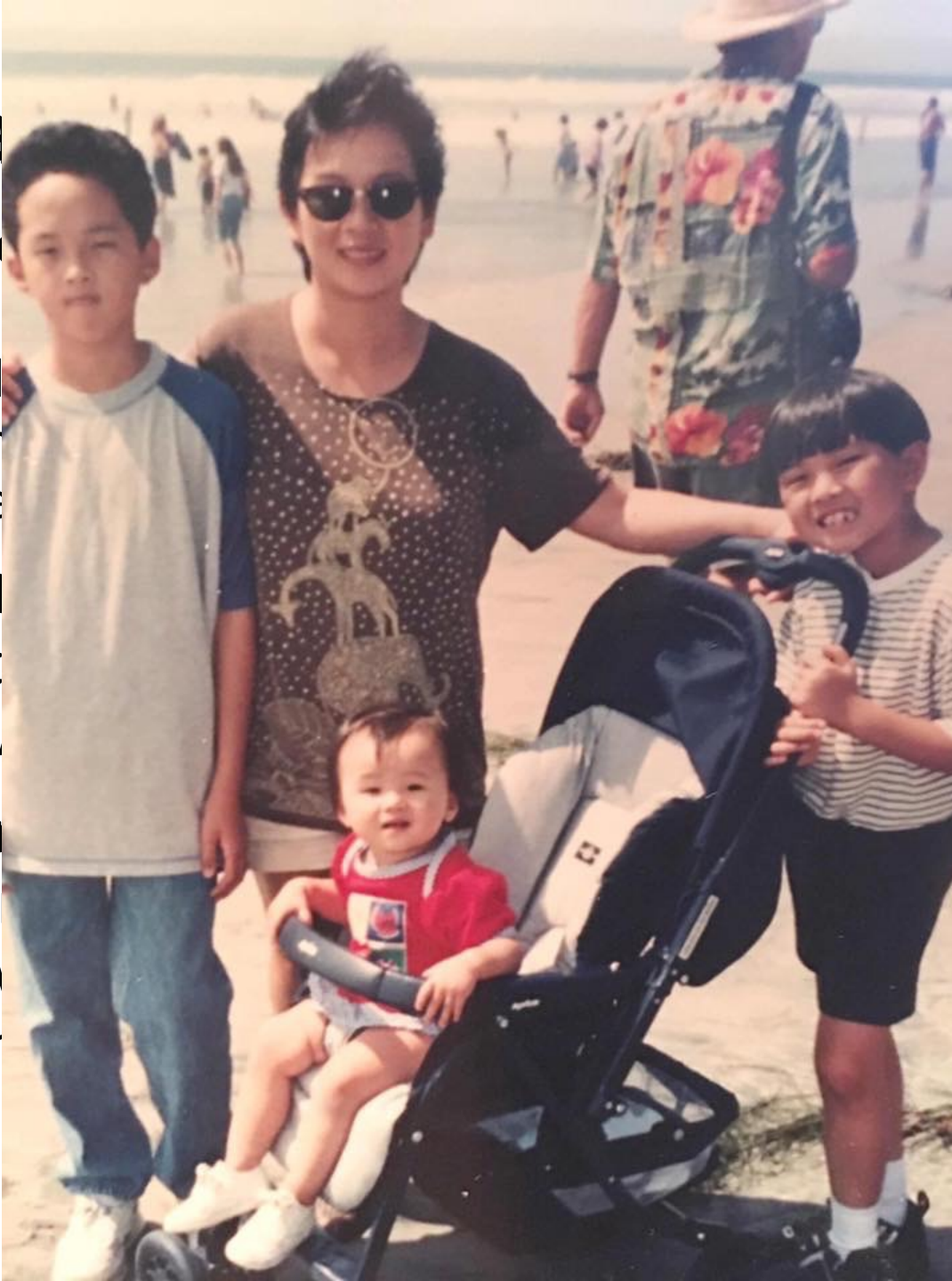


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**What is your testimony and have you shared it with your coworkers and classmates?**



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- **Galatians 5:17** → For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. **They are in conflict with each other**, so that you are not to do whatever you want.





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“Now the non-christian has the freedom to do what he wants in sin. He can keep on doing what he wants, because there is no internal struggle. **BUT NOT SO** with the Christian. They face an internal struggle and warfare where there is no freedom to walk in a sinful path and direction. That internal struggle is constant in them.” –Deon O. Thomas



# III. Has an Internal Spiritual Struggle

**Romans 7:17-20** → As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. **For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.** 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 **Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.**



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**1 John 3:9** → <sup>9</sup> No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.





## IV. Pursues Holiness

**1 Corinthians 10:13** → No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**



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You see that when the genuine believer comes to a dynamic relationship of God... His desire to sin **begins to diminish.**

THIS does not mean we are PERFECT or Sinless... But we need to have a **PURSUIT OF THE HOLY!**



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**John 3:16-17** → 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, **that whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to **condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**



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When you **believe** in Jesus you are moving towards Him and **away from Sin**.





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There needs to be a **progression in our love** and **pursuit of the Lord!** To crucify and put to death our own will.



# V. Loves the Body of Christ

**John 13:34-35** → <sup>34</sup> “A new command I give you: **Love** one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples**, if you love one another.”



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## **How are your relationships in the church?**

A Genuine Christian has a strong desire for accountability, service, and growth within the church community



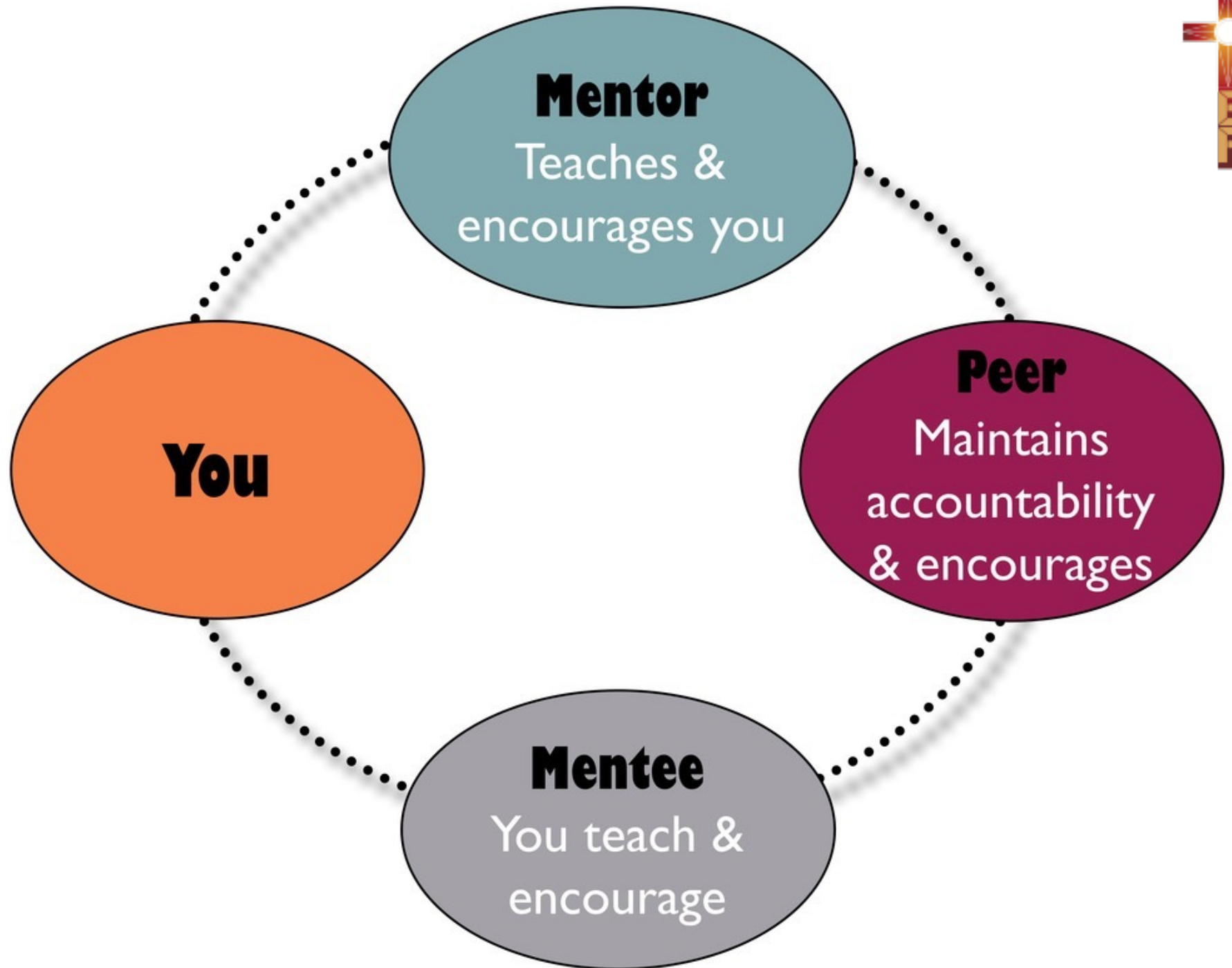
# V. Loves the Body of Christ

We are called to Be Authentic in our relationships:

**I Cor. 12:25** → “so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should **have equal concern for each other.**”

**Romans 12:5** → <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and **each member belongs to all the others.**







# V. Loves the Body of Christ

**We need to Seek Discipleship Relationships that give us:**

- **Humility** to learn from mentors.
- **Transparency** to be accountable to peers.
- **Selflessness** to also spend time teaching and encouraging others.



# Conclusion

**Andrew Murray on Self Examination** → *"It is when we face ourselves and face Christ, that we are lost in wonder, love and praise. **We need to rediscover the almost lost discipline of self-examination;** and then a re-awakened sense of sin will beget a reawakened sense of wonder."*

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# Conclusion

May we examine our faith and thus prove blessed to hear these words:

Matthew 25:23 → <sup>23</sup> “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. **Come and share your master’s happiness!**”