



SELF EXAMINATION

CAN YOU HANDLE
THE TRUTH?

I. Self-examination is not a suggestion for Christians or an optional luxury. It is our most solemn duty and the truest determination of whether we are an authentic Christian.



2 Corinthians

13:5

5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

II. Self-examination is a spiritual inquisition. It is literally bringing oneself to trial.

James

1:22-24

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

III. “Reflective acts are hardest. The eye can see everything but itself. It is easy to spy the faults of others, but hard to find out our own.”

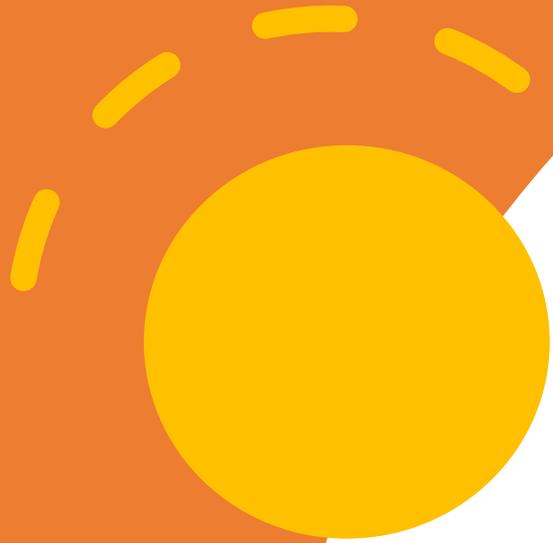
—Thomas Watson (English Nonconformist Puritan preacher)

Stephen Charnock's Definition of Self Examination

“Self-examination is a necessary duty, belonging to everyone in the church, and requires much diligence in the performing of it.”

—Stephen Charnock





Self Examination is not just what we do, but God is equally concerned with why we do what we do.

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)



23 Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

IV. What happens if we fail to constantly self examine?



1. God allows you to go to the school of tough training.

I Timothy 1: 18-20

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2. When you fail to correct your personal issues, God the Father, Daddy, Pops intervenes and helps us get it right.

I Corinthians 11:28-32

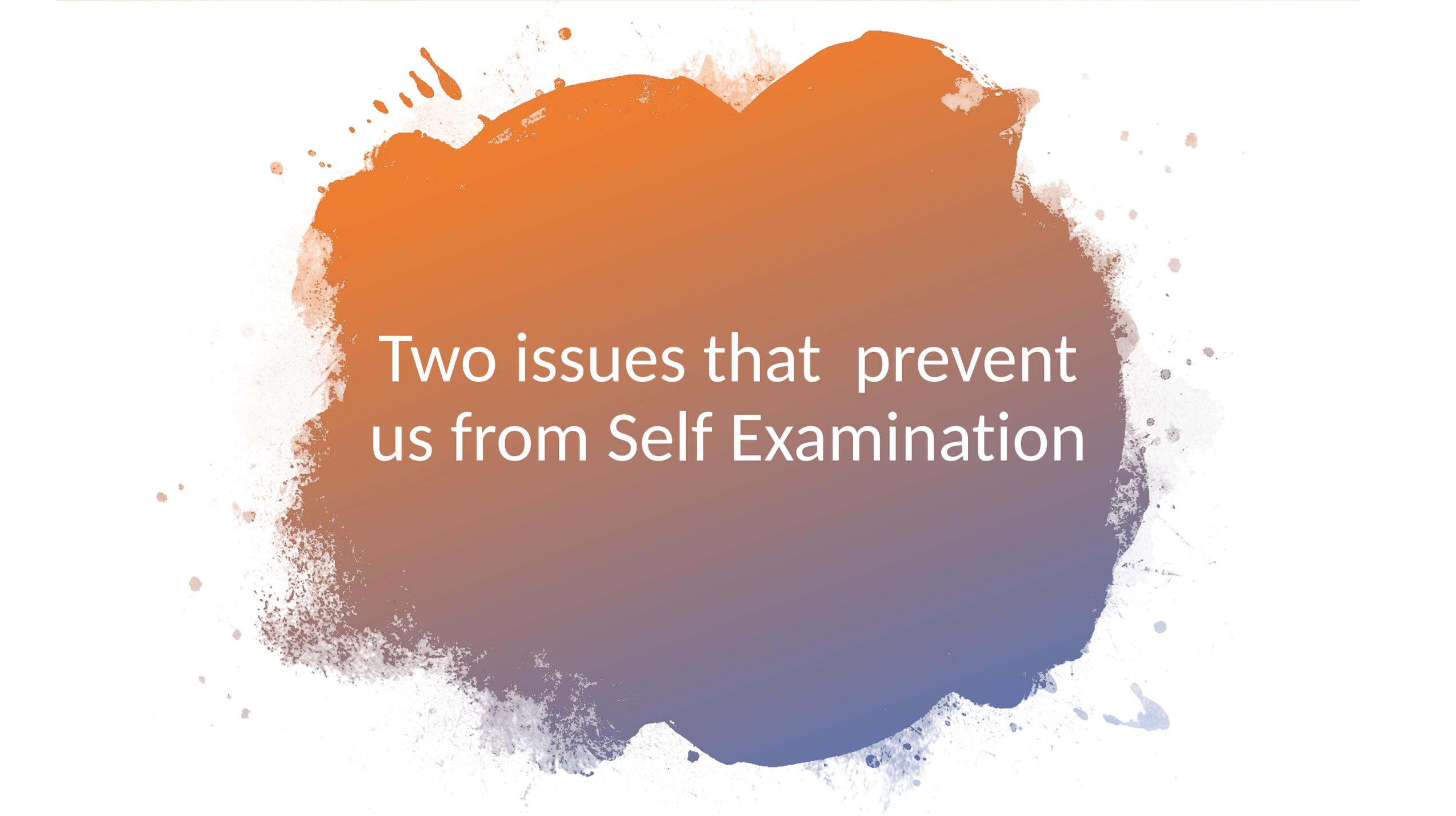
28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.



Two issues that prevent
us from Self Examination

1. There are times when self-love blinds us from seeing the truth about ourselves. Just as ignorance blinds, so self-love flatters. Every man is ready to think the best of himself.



Proverbs

10:12



12 Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

2. Immature and superficial relationships



Luke 17:3



3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.



How to know you're on
the road to self-denial:

A. You start neglecting your
spiritual life.

Hebrews 2:1

2 So we must listen very carefully to the truths we have heard, or we may drift away from them.

James

1:23&24

23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.
24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

➤ Neglect causes a lack of sensitivity to God's Nature. Sin is no longer painful.

Hebrews

5:11



11 There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don't seem to listen.

B. Holding on to hurt

Hebrews

12:1



1 let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Matthew

5:23&24



23 “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,
24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

Lamentations

3:40



40 Let us examine and probe our ways,
And let us return to the Lord.

Next week:
Symptoms of
not self
examining.

