

# 2 Corinthians 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

## Analysis

**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves**—Paul turns the tables: those demanding proof (*dokimēn*, v. 3) of Paul's authority must now *dokimazete* (δοκιμάζετε, "examine/test") themselves. The present imperative demands ongoing self-examination. The phrase **whether ye be in the faith** (εἰ ἐστε ἐν τῇ πίστει) questions their fundamental standing—not peripheral issues but salvation itself.

**Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?** The word *adokimoi* (ἀδόκιμοι, "reprobates/disqualified/failing the test") is the negative form of the *dokimē* they demanded—those failing the test are rejected. Paul's logic: if Christ is not in you (*Christos en hymin*, Χριστὸς ἐν ὑμῖν), you've failed the ultimate examination. This doctrine of **Christ in you** (compare Col 1:27, "Christ in you, the hope of glory") is the essence of Christian identity—union with Christ, not mere intellectual assent.

## Historical Context

The Corinthian church exhibited all external marks of Christianity—spiritual gifts, church gatherings, even claims of superior knowledge (1 Cor 8:1)—yet struggled with fundamental sins (incest, factionalism, idolatry). Paul's call to self-examination addresses the dangerous possibility of religious activity without genuine conversion, a perennial danger in church history.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to 'examine yourself' whether you are 'in the faith'—what are you looking for?
2. How does 'Christ in you' differ from mere intellectual belief in Christian doctrine?
3. Why does Paul raise the possibility that professing Christians might be 'reprobates' who failed the test?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐαυτοὺς	πειράζετε	εἰ	ἐστε	ἐν	τῇ	πίστει		
<b>your own selves</b>	<b>Examine</b>	<b>whether</b>	<b>ye be</b>	<b>in</b>	<sup>G3588</sup>	<b>the faith</b>		
G1438	G3985	G1487	G2075	G1722		G4102		
ἐαυτοὺς	δοκιμάζετε·	ἢ	οὐκ	ἐπιγινώσκετε	ἐαυτοὺς			
<b>your own selves</b>	<b>prove</b>	<sup>G2228</sup>	<b>not</b>	<b>Know ye</b>	<b>your own selves</b>			
G1438	G1381		G3756	G1921	G1438			
ὅτι	Ἰησοῦς	Χριστὸς	ἐν	ὑμῖν	ἐστίν	εἰ	μή	τι
<b>how that</b>	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Christ</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>whether</b>	<sup>G3361</sup>	<sup>G5100</sup>
G3754	G2424	G5547	G1722	G5213	G2076	G1487		
ἀδόκιμοί	ἐστε							
<b>reprobates</b>	<b>ye be</b>							
G96	G2075							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Lamentations 3:40** (Parallel theme): Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

**1 Corinthians 11:28** (Parallel theme): But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

**1 Corinthians 9:27** (Parallel theme): But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**Revelation 2:5** (Parallel theme): Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

**Galatians 6:4** (Parallel theme): But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

**Hebrews 12:15** (Parallel theme): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

**1 Corinthians 11:31** (Parallel theme): For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

**Galatians 2:20** (Faith): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Psalms 26:2** (Parallel theme): Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

**John 14:23** (References Jesus): Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.