

## **Are You For Real?**

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If you have purchased anything and paid for it with a \$20 bill or any larger bill, you've probably noticed that the salesperson put a mark on the currency that you used to pay. The clerk was using a counterfeit detector pen which contains an iodine solution that creates a black stain on counterfeit bills. On genuine bills there is no discoloration.

What if there were a pen that we could use on Christians to determine whether they were genuine or not. And let's not use it on other people; let's stand in front of the mirror and use it on ourselves. What if we could just swipe ourselves with a pen in order to determine whether, or not, we are acceptable to God. Whether we are the real thing, or just a counterfeit.

Well, there is no such gadget. So how can we know? We must check ourselves using the word of God.

The apostle Paul says, "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 NASB). Paul was dealing with false teachers in Corinth who wanted to test him. They were claiming he was a Johnny-come-lately, inferior apostle, if indeed he was an apostle at all. Paul replied, in essence, "I've proven myself to be genuine time and again. If anyone should know that, it's you Corinthians. So instead of testing me, get busy testing yourselves." Likewise we, today, tend to want to test other folks in the church, but we ought to start by looking in the mirror.

What are some of the tests which indicate that Jesus is in us? What are some things we can do to insure that we do not fail the test?

One thing that we can do is to have our minds filled with things spiritual. "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:2 NASB).

Another things is to remain focused on, and practice, these things, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9 NASB).

The Psalmist reminds us, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight" (Psalm 19:14 NASB). Again, he writes, "I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies" (Psalm 119:59 NASB).

Do you get the picture? What happens when you swipe the pen across yourself? Did you pass the test?