

GOSPEL GUT CHECK: WHEN CHRISTIANS ARE ACCUSED BY OUTSIDERS

1 JOHN 2:3-11 (ESV)

I. Any time people _____ us of _____ or failure, self-examination is appropriate.

If your self-understanding is shaped by the Gospel,

A. You are _____ that you have sin and

B. That invites a _____ response to the accusations of anyone.

C. But we should be _____ not to give outsider accusations too much regard.

II. When people outside the Church accuse Christians, John provides three standards for biblical self-examination:

A. Standard #1: Jesus' _____.

1. Jesus commanded us (a) to _____ His message and (b) to love other _____.

2. Jesus' command that we love one another shows His intention that the Church be a _____ of _____ that will last forever.

3. If you actively hate Christians or the Church, you are not in _____ with Jesus. If outsiders tell you otherwise, _____ them.

B. Standard #2: Jesus' _____.

1. We should examine our lives to see if we are _____
_____ or not.
2. If mature Christians _____ that your life is
_____ more like Jesus, we should not listen to
outsider accusations to the contrary.

C. Standard #3: God's _____.

1. Those who reject the Church for the world not only inevitably
_____ into sin, but often abandoned Christ _____ sin
in the first place.
2. When accusers of God's people openly _____
_____, their _____ of reality should not be
taken overly seriously.