

John's Self-Assessment

Performance Reviews

- Yearly performance plans
 - Lists duties and responsibilities
 - Objectively review employees
- Clear spiritual application
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Performance Reviews

- Work self-assessment
 - Done halfway through the year
 - Employee gauges own progress toward goals
- Spiritual application
 - 2 Corinthians 13:5
 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
 - Opportunity to remind us of expectations
 - Opportunity to measure our progress

John's Self-Assessment

I. Walk in God's Light

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- 1 John 1:5-7
 - This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- Light is goodness, purity, righteousness
- To "walk in the light" means to walk righteously
 - We must stay *out* of the dark!

I. Walk in God's Light

- 1 John 1:5-7
- Psalm 119:105
 - Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.
- Proverbs 6:23
 - For the commandment *is* a lamp,
And the law a light;
Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life
- The Word of God is how we determine righteousness

I. Walk in God's Light

- 1 John 1:5-7
- Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 6:23
- John 8:12
 - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
- Following Jesus requires walking in light

I. Walk in God's Light

- Our goal is to walk in light, not darkness
- How would we rate our performance?
 - Do we keep 'secret' sin?
 - Do we excuse 'minor' sin?
 - Do we bring our sin into the light and ask forgiveness?
- Would God agree with our rating?

John's Self-Assessment

I. Walk in God's Light

II. Keep God's Commandments

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- 1 John 2:3-6
 - Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.
- More than just 'not sinning'
- Actively seeking out and following God's Word

II. Keep God's Commandments

- 1 John 2:3-6
- John 14:23-24
 - Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”
- Obedience reveals love in personal relationships
 - Wife to husband
 - Children to parents
 - Christian to God

II. Keep God's Commandments

- Our goal is to do what God commands
- How would we rate our performance?
 - Do we overlook troublesome commandments?
 - Do we obey just what we can remember?
 - Do we search for commands of God and follow them?
 - Do we obey even if we don't understand or others disagree?
- Would God agree with our rating?

John's Self-Assessment

- I. Walk in God's Light
- II. Keep God's Commandments
- III. Love One Another**

III. Love One Another

- 1 John 2:9-11
 - He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- Only two options: love or hate
- Hate keeps us in the dark
- God expects us to show love towards each other

III. Love One Another

- 1 John 2:9-11
- John 13:34
 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- We show love because Christ showed love
- We show the *same kind* of love

III. Love One Another

- 1 John 2:9-11
- John 13:34
- Hebrews 3:12-13
 - Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
- "Exhort": to address, speak to (call to, call on), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.
 - Root word for "Helper" in John 14-16
- Commanded to exhort, encourage, and comfort one another, both directly and by example – Heb. 10:24-25

III. Love One Another

- Our goal is to love one another
- How would we rate our performance?
 - Do we harbor ill feelings for someone?
 - Do we *say* we love each other without showing it?
 - Do we only think of our brethren on Sundays?
 - Do we keep our brethren on our minds and hearts throughout the week?
 - Do we work towards being an encouragement both directly and indirectly?
- Would God agree with our rating?

John's Self-Assessment

- I. Walk in God's Light
- II. Keep God's Commandments
- III. Love One Another
- IV. Put God Before the World**

IV. Put God Before the World

- 1 John 2:15-17
 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- God wants us to love Him, not merely His Creation
- Major categories of sin
 - Lust of the flesh
 - Lust of the eyes
 - Pride of life
- Contrasted with the one who "does the will of God"

IV. Put God Before the World

- 1 John 2:15-17
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 - Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
- God blesses us and wants us to enjoy life
- Danger is materialism – the love of things in the world
- Doing the will of God comes first
 - Do good, good works, give, share

IV. Put God Before the World

- 1 John 2:15-17
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- James 4:13-16
 - Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.
- Our time is short – God wants us to properly prioritize
- Even a command can be sinful if we take it too far

IV. Put God Before the World

- Our goal is to put God before the world
- How would we rate our performance?
 - Do we spend more time at work or play than with God?
 - Do we find ourselves caught up in materialism?
 - Do we put too much focus on our physical desires?
 - Do we enjoy God's gifts without being ensnared by them?
 - Do we store up heavenly treasures even if it costs us our earthly treasures?
- Would God agree with our rating?

John's Self-Assessment

- I. Walk in God's Light
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- III. Love One Another
- IV. Put God Before the World
- V. Hold to the Truth**

V. Hold to the Truth

- 1 John 2:22-24
 - Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also. Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- God's Truth is an objective standard
- Denying any portion means denying it all
 - Jews, Muslims, and others claim to have the Father but deny the Son as God.
 - Many 'Christians' claim to have the Son but don't hold solely to God's Word.

V. Hold to the Truth

- 1 John 2:22-24
- 2 Peter 2:1-2
 - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.
- Departure from truth is self-destructive
- Departure from truth leaves a path others will follow

V. Hold to the Truth

- Our goal is to hold to God's complete truth
- How would we rate our performance?
 - Do we ignore parts of God's Word because we don't like it?
 - Do we hold to what we *think* is in Scripture rather than verifying it?
 - Do we make sure to study all of what God says on a topic?
 - Do we make stands against false doctrines and teachers?
- Would God agree with our rating?

Self-Assessment Summary

- Our goals are
 - Walking in God's light
 - Keeping God's commandments
 - Loving one another
 - Putting God before the world
 - Holding to the truth
- How are we performing?
- Have we improved since our last assessment?
- How can we improve before our next assessment?

Self-Assessment Summary

- 1 John 5:13
 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
- John gives us:
 - Assurance that eternal life will be given to those in God
 - Encouragement when we do well and grow
 - Motivation to better ourselves and grow closer to Him

