

## Search Me and My Culture

### *REFLECT AND PRAY*

Jesus, You said in Your description about the lukewarm nature of the church at the end of times, “You think you are rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17). Today I don’t want to be blind just because I’m part of a certain culture. Please send me the Holy Spirit to be like medicine for my blindness (verse 18). Rebuke me and correct me (verse 19). As I contemplate Your Ten Commandments of Love, search me and my culture.

1) What do I love more than You? What do I spend my time and thoughts on to a greater extent than You? Have I lifted myself up, seeking to make myself look good to others through my achievements, degrees, talents, or even my spirituality? Is my honor more important to me than giving glory to God and serving humbly?

3) Do I take Your name in vain, claiming to be a Christian but not living His life? Am I going along with everyone else, following the culture even when it goes against Your commands or causes me to neglect some of the things that are important to You?

2) Do I spend my time on entertainment that decreases my desire to spend time in Your word, praying or worshipping You? Are the things that I listen to, watch, or read filling my mind with images and leading to a lifestyle that is against the Ten Commandments and the example of Jesus? Are they an idol that I would struggle to lay down for a week, a day, or an hour?

4) Do I work so hard at achieving that I neglect my time with God, my family, my health, or helping others? Am I breaking Your Sabbath because I think I have to in order to provide for my family or because I want to make some extra money? Do I use the Sabbath for my own pleasure when I could be spending time with You or helping someone?

5) Do I neglect the elderly and do I tend to disrespect those in places of authority like my parents, teachers, and leaders in the church or government simply because everyone around me tends to be cynical of leadership and value independence and youthfulness more than cooperation, experience, and honor?

6) Jesus said that hatred is the seed of murder. Towards whom am I bitter and unforgiving? Is there any prejudice in my heart towards someone because they are different from me? How else have I and my culture devalued life?

7) Have I come to consider sexual immorality as normal, watching it in movies, on the internet, or even participating in it, instead of hating that which destroys marriages and the beauty of love as God created it?

8) Have I stolen something from my boss, company, or the government? Have I refused to give God my tithes and offerings? Am I using all that I have for the growth of God's kingdom or for my own impermanent kingdom?

9) Do I excuse small lies or deceive by my actions or silence because I think it might help me in some other way or to just keep the peace and not hurt someone's feelings? Do I gossip and defame other people's reputation or make myself look better than others, putting them down? Am I afraid to speak up for the truth because someone might make fun of me or persecute me?

10) Do I covet what others have and am I unthankful for all the blessings God has given me? Do I easily spend money unnecessarily on myself that could have been used to keep alive starving people or to share the gospel with those who have never had a chance to know Jesus? Do I think I deserve the treats I give myself when others have worked at least as hard and struggle without?

Thank You for showing me more of my ugly self. You invited me to "be zealous and repent" and promised that You stand at the door of my heart to come and be close to me. Thank You for Your promise that "to him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne" (Revelation 3:19-21). With Your help, I choose to repent from the things You have convicted me about. Please forgive me and live in me. In Jesus' name, amen.