

(1) I opened the message on Sunday with a question that I would like each of you to ask yourselves once again. After you do, share your observations with one another. Here is the question: “Where are you today, in terms of Christian growth and zeal and love for Jesus, in comparison with where you were when you first became a Christian?” Has your love grown? How? If not, why not? Has your zeal intensified or waned? Why?

(2) How does it affect you and how you live each day to know that Jesus is omniscient, that he sees and knows everything, and I mean **everything** about you: what you think, how you choose, your motivations, your daydreams, etc.? What difference “should” it make in how you live?

(3) Can you give examples from your own experience in churches you’ve attended where the leadership and people lost their theological backbone and began to compromise and cut corners on issues of biblical truth and ethical behavior? What were the reasons they gave for this? Was the practical outcome in terms of its effects on the people in that church? Why do you think churches and their leaders fall into theological and moral compromise?

(4) Is it possible for Christians in a local church to maintain their commitment to truth and orthodoxy without becoming judgmental and cynical and overly critical of others? If not, why not? If you answer yes, how might this be done? How might we protect ourselves from becoming hard-hearted and angry separatists?

(5) Read 1 Corinthians 15.24-26 and compare it with Revelation 2.28-29. What do you understand about the nature of the “intermediate” state? Are these two texts describing the same thing?