

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.

Lamentations 3:40

LUTTERWORTH, COTESBACH, BITTESWELL JANUARY 2019: SELF-REFLECTION

Self-reflection is an important part of Christian growth – taking time to consider oneself and take stock of what we're really like. It can also reveal changes that have taken place slowly, and so be a challenge or encouragement to us. The New Year seems a great opportunity to do this.

So, let me invite you to join the wider church family in a process of personal review. The attached questionnaire is designed for church members to use privately.

Self-examination could easily be mere introspection, but when we reflect we are asking God to work in us. Pray that God would reveal truly what's going on inside; ask that He would show us where we need to change.

In Psalm 139, King David reflects on God's knowledge of us.

¹You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar...

¹³For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Of course, the aim of any self-reflection is to learn where we are and what we're like, so that we can more closely follow Jesus,

²³Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

I'm also using this as part of taking stock of where we are as the people of God together. You can complete the form completely anonymously, but I'd like to collate all the data so that I can understand our areas of strength and weakness as a whole body – across all our different services in our three churches.

I'm asking people to return these forms to me via the Church Office. All the data will be collated to help guide the leadership as we plan future events, teaching & training.

There is an introductory section for info about you – this will help me to work out who the church is helping best and where we might need to focus our attention. It can be easy for ministers to respond to the loudest voices and I'd like to be a little more deliberate.

After that there are eight sections, considering different areas of the Christian life. These are the core spiritual questions, so I suggest focussing your time on those. No questionnaire is going to be perfect, and some people may struggle to tick boxes in answer to spiritual questions. I'd ask you to bear with it, in the hope that you will find the overall process helpful.

There is also a final section for any comments you would like to make to me. I pray that you would find this process of self-examination helpful and that it will help us to help one another to grow to be more like Jesus.

Charlie

If you would like to receive this back in 12 months' time, please give your name: Alternatively, you might want to make a copy for yourself to compare in January 2020.

ABOUT ME

Usual service I attend:

8am Lutterworth 9.30am Lutterworth 10am Cotesbach 11am Lutterworth
11am Bitteswell 4pm Lutterworth 10.30am Wednesday Lutterworth

How often I come to a church service:

More than weekly Weekly Fortnightly Monthly Occasionally

How long I've been a Christian:

Not yet Up to 1yr 2-4yrs 5-10yrs 10-15yrs 15-20yrs 20-30yrs More than 30yrs

How long I've been part of the church:

Up to 1yr 2-4yrs 5-10yrs 10-15yrs 15-20yrs 20-30yrs More than 30yrs

My age:

0-10 10-20 20-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70-80 80-90 90+

I am Please circle all that apply.

Male Female Married Single Widowed Parent of Small Children
Parent of Teenagers in Full-time Work in Part-time work Retired
Stay-at-home parent In paid Christian work

Anything else

.....
.....
.....
.....

LIVING LIKE JESUS

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Following Jesus makes a significant difference to the choices I make

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am committed to bring everything in my life under God's authority

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am living more like Jesus now, than a year ago

Less so now About the same More than before

TELLING GOOD NEWS

"Be ready at all **times** to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15-16)

I am ready to talk about my faith with anyone

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am passionately committed to the urgent task of sharing the Gospel with everyone

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I have shared my faith more during this year than before

Less so now About the same More than before

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

I am regular and committed in prayer, whether or not I feel like it

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I consciously depend on God for everything and am quicker to pray than to worry or act.

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am more faithful in prayer now, than a year ago

Less so now About the same More than before

HELPING THE NEEDY

"What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world." (James 1:27)

I am filled with compassion for suffering people and willing to make sacrifices to help others

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I put my faith into action in practical ways to help others in need

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I have been more help to people in need this year

Less so now About the same More than before

LEARNING AND GROWING

“Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

I am hungry to know more about God and how I can live for Him.

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I regularly read my Bible, both alone and with others

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I now have a deeper understanding of God and His love for me

Less so now About the same More than before

SHARING GENEROUSLY

“You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

I think of others in the way I use and spend the things I have

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I give all that I can (money, time, energy) away

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am more generous than I was a year ago

Less so now About the same More than before

PRAISING GOD

“Speak to one another with the words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

I thank God for everything good I experience

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I spend time in thanks and praise to God outside of formal services

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am more grateful than I was a year ago

Less so now About the same More than before

COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

I meet often with other Christians for mutual support

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am committed to helping other members of the church in practical and spiritual ways

Not True Somewhat True Mostly True Always True

I am more committed to the Body of Christ than a year ago

Less so now About the same More than before

FINAL QUESTIONS

What areas can I feel encouraged about?

Is there any area I now feel challenged about?

In which two areas would I especially like to grow in the coming year?

Is there anything I need to ask for help with?

COMMENTS TO CHARLIE

I would like the church to organise/facilitate this to help my growth...

I think the church family could really benefit from this...

I would really like to help towards making this happen...