

1 KINGS 8:61

WHOLEHEARTED

LIVING IN SURRENDER TO JESUS

2022

SELF-ASSESSMENT



BLACK ROCK **CHURCH**

Evaluating ourselves is not easy. We all like to think we are better than we are. Pastor Timothy Keller has said, “If your god never disagrees with you, you might just be worshiping an idealized version of yourself.” Honest assessment of our hearts comes by first identifying the standard by which we can see them accurately - God’s Word. Scripture is the only perfect mirror in which we can reliably assess ourselves, and we will look to Paul’s letter to the Colossians to help us do just that.

Being wholehearted is a description of our inner heart-life that becomes visible through the choices and actions that make up our everyday life. Actions are not the basis of our faith, but actions and motivations are important indicators of what is happening in our hearts. We can’t be wholehearted followers of Jesus, though, if we refuse to hear our heart diagnosis. Since we will always have room to grow in wholeheartedness, use this assessment to identify areas where God may be calling you to pursue growth. This is not to guilt us into better behavior - Jesus is not interested in obligatory “better behavior.” He’s after our heart, our WHOLE heart.

HOW TO DO THE ASSESSMENT:

- Set aside time to focus on the assessment – 20-30 minutes is a good target.
- Start by quieting your heart before God, asking Him to give you courage to speak honestly with yourself and to remind you that His grace sets you free from condemnation. His desire for you is the joy that comes from a wholehearted life as His child.
- Read and think about the Scripture passage and explanation in each section.
- Take time to honestly consider each question or statement and mark your response on a scale of 1 to 8 within each section before moving on.
- When all sections are completed, add up your responses using the provided Results Grid and make time to explore next steps in your areas of growth.

SECTION 1:

Am I a saint?

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will, and Timothy our brother: To the saints in Christ at Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”

COLOSSIANS 1:1

When the Bible uses the word “saint,” it’s not talking about a select group of super-spiritual people. Rather, saints are anyone who turns from a self-sufficient spiritual life and trusts Jesus as their Savior. People are not saints because of their own goodness, but because of Jesus’. Saints are ordinary people who trust that Jesus, being fully God and fully human, lived a perfect life without sin and paid the penalty their sins deserve. This came through His death on the cross and His rising from the dead, showing His victory over the penalty of sin which is eternal death. Those who trust that Jesus did this for them are called saints in the Bible because God sees them through the lens of Jesus’ perfect obedience and not their own sinfulness.



If Paul wrote a letter to the “saints” at Black Rock, am I sure this title includes me because of my trust in Jesus?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

If you’re not absolutely sure whether the biblical term “saint” applies to you, we’d love to talk! Head to blackrock.org/faith to start a conversation or stop by the Next Steps kiosk or Prayer Room on Sunday.

SECTION 2:

Is Jesus the only recipient of my worship?

“And he [Jesus] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

Since Christ is preeminent or supreme over absolutely everything else, our rightful response is to make Him preeminent in our lives. If we're honest, we'll likely find that other people and things often take precedence. When we give someone or something else more of our devotion than Jesus, we have instead made them supreme, giving them our highest priority and affection. These things have become idols, an object of our worship. If we only think of idols as statues or celebrity worship, we think we're off the hook. But it's often good gifts from God like family, work, leisure or money that can become idols.

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Do the people I interact with regularly know I am a Christ-follower (friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc.)?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I define my success or progress based on how I'm growing as a follower of Jesus rather than items like income/career, personal reputation, achievements of my family, etc.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Going a week without attending church or watching an online service is a big deal to me.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Do my choices show that I trust and prioritize what God desires for me, even if it's difficult, more than I desire to have control or comfort in life?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

SECTION 3:

Which relationships am I cultivating within the church?

“...for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints...” Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

COLOSSIANS 1:4

The apostle Paul often describes saints as “brothers and sisters”, further demonstrating the biblical truth that those who trust Jesus as their Savior are God’s adopted children (John 1:12). As brothers and sisters through trust in Christ, it is evident that the members of the Colossian church visibly demonstrated their family-like affection for one another by being devoted to and loving each other well.

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I spend time with people from Black Rock Church who encourage and inspire me to follow Jesus like they do.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I make efforts to connect with people I know, or with volunteers, staff, etc. before or after Sunday services rather than choosing to leave and get on with my day.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

When I am challenged or struggling, do I share details of my experience within a group, team or with trusted individuals at church?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Do I make personal sacrifices of time, commitment, etc. to love others and to be open to receive love or assistance from people at church?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

SECTION 4:

Where am I making a difference because I follow Jesus?

“...for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God’s grace. You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf.”

COLOSSIANS 1:4-7

Paul commends Epaphras for sharing the good news of the gospel and faithfully ministering to this church as they told people about Jesus, calling them to follow Him and leave behind the value systems of their culture. Later in Colossians 1, Paul talks about how he personally suffered for the sake of spreading the gospel, so it’s clear that sharing the good news of Jesus with those who did not yet believe was of utmost importance to Paul and Epaphras.

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Do I view my purpose at Black Rock is to minister to others through my actions, participation, etc.?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I look for chances to serve or talk about my faith with someone who I know that isn’t a follower of Jesus.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

It is common for me to spend more than 1 hour per week at the church.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

The ways that I use my voice when I’m with people, interacting on social media, etc. is influenced by my desire to share about Jesus and to represent Him well.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

SECTION 5:

How is the Bible equipping me to know God and His desires for me?

“So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude. Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.”

COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

Paul wrote Colossians to address false teaching about what it means to follow Jesus which had crept into the church. Some Christ-followers in Colossae had been led astray by cultural philosophies and false teachers. Paul corrected these counterfeit ideas and pleaded for them to be careful about what they were filling their minds with. Instead of worldly wisdom, they were to “set their minds on things above” (Col. 3:2). The same is true for us. If we don’t want to be fooled by the empty philosophies we are bombarded with daily, we must know God’s truth from Scripture. We arm ourselves with the truth of God’s Word by studying it and understanding how it applies to our lives.

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I have a plan for when and what I am reading in the Bible.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Do I see ways God regularly uses the Bible to deepen my relationship with Him?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I refer to the storyline and themes of the Bible to help me distinguish truth from lies in the conversations around me and in what I read, listen to or watch.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Reading and growing to know the Bible more is a key part of most days.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

SECTION 6:

What role does prayer have in my life?

“For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

“Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us...”

COLOSSIANS 4:2-3

It’s clear from these passages that Paul believed in the importance of prayer. Telling the Colossians about his constant prayer for them was not to boast, but to encourage and inspire them to do the same. It’s interesting to note that Paul’s primary prayer for the Colossian believers was for aspects of their spiritual growth, before anything else, knowing this is what is most needed to live out their faith. Paul’s ultimate desire for the saints in Colossae is that they would be more like Jesus, and that should be our ultimate desire for ourselves and those we pray for too.

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I understand how to pray and feel confident that God hears me.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Does it seem prayer is a consistent, ongoing dialogue with God throughout the week?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I pray about my own spiritual growth and relationship with God as much as I do for other requests, topics, etc.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I recognize and regularly confess specific sins to God in prayer, accepting His mercy and grace as I strive to live a godly life.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

SECTION 7:

How is the Bible equipping me to know God and His desires for me?

“Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.”

COLOSSIANS 3:24-25

Paul reminds believers in Colossae they should have the mindset that everything they do is for the Lord. Wherever we are, whatever we're doing, we should approach it as being for Jesus. Having that mindset dramatically impacts how we live our day-to-day lives. Being certain that we have an inheritance from the Lord that will outlast and far surpass anything we have or can accumulate during this life frees us to maximize our attention on following Jesus.

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I think of my vocation and primary responsibilities at home as spiritual activities first of all.

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Does knowing that Christ-followers inherit a never-ending future with God in heaven influence how I invest my time or resources now?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

I look for ways to include spiritual things as part of my everyday life (driving in the car, waiting in line, screen time, tasks around the house, etc.)

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

Are there intentional boundaries around blocks of time each week in my life for worship and rest?

Not Really 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 **Absolutely**

RESULTS GRID

- Add the number value of your responses in each section and enter the totals below.
- **Section 1:** If your score is less than 8, Faith is the first growth area you should investigate at blackrock.org/resources.
- **Section 2-7:** Identify the one or two categories with the lowest score. These are potential Growth Areas to explore, using the steps on the back cover.

| GROWTH AREA | TOTAL SCORE |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 - Faith | |
| Section 2 - Worship | |
| Section 3 - Connecting | |
| Section 4 - Serving | |
| Section 5 - Scripture | |
| Section 6 - Prayer | |
| Section 7 - Daily Mindset | |

ARE YOUR RESULTS UNCLEAR?

1. Repeat the assessment at a different time.
2. Ask God to guide you toward the Growth Area most applicable to you right now.
3. Reach out to a trusted staff member or other Christ-follower to talk about your responses and results.

FAITH: Trusting in Jesus alone as my hope for a rescued relationship with God because He loved me enough to give His own life through Jesus to pay the penalty of my sin.

WORSHIP: Reserving my highest devotion for Jesus and my ultimate place of identity in Him, because He is the rightful owner of my heart, as the one who paid to bring me back from spiritual death.

CONNECTING: Building relationships and growing alongside others because God has adopted me into His family to love, influence and encourage one another.

SERVING: Living intentionally at church and wherever I go because God wants to use me to build up others and help them to know Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: Growing in knowledge of God and His plans for me shown through the Bible because God wants me to know Him and how He desires for me to live.

PRAYER: Enjoying a relational dialogue with God through prayer because God wants to share His heart with me as I share with Him so that my heart becomes aligned with His.

DAILY MINDSET: Using time and resources each day with an eternal perspective because God frees me to maximize my attention on Him.



NEXT STEPS

1. Talk with God about the Growth Areas you've identified.

- Express to God ways you have been less than wholehearted in this area and how that has affected your relationship with Him.
- Thank God for His grace which enables us to start fresh in any area of our lives when we turn to Him, telling Him what that means for you.
- Ask God to give you the desire to change and the wisdom to pursue a new step in this area that will help you become more fully surrendered as a follower of Jesus.

2. Start now, plan for the long-term.

- Spiritual growth happens through small steps taken consistently across our lives as we pursue Christlikeness.
- We're dedicating the entire year of 2022 to grow in wholehearted surrender to Jesus together so start now, but remember that growth doesn't happen instantly.
- For resources, tools and steps to help you explore your Growth Area, head to blackrock.org/resources or the Black Rock Library in RightNow Media.
- Watch for upcoming sermon series and initiatives related to these Growth Areas.



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