

Spiritual Inventory
Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

Directed Towards an Inventory of Personal Character and Issues of the Heart

Introduction:

This spiritual inventory has been designed to enable candidates, licentiates and men seeking licensure and ordination in the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley to take stock of the progress of grace in the heart. Character formation requires the continued deepening of the sanctifying graces of the Holy Spirit. Some questions will be considered “very personal, even intimate,” but they are examples of issues that every servant of Christ must deal with faithfully.

Your signature at the space provided at the end of this paragraph indicates that you understand that though your responses are personal, they will ordinarily be read only by Credentials Committee members. You are thereby granting the committee permission to copy, disseminate and read these reflections (within the committee) in order to more faithfully assist you in spiritual accountability and growth in grace. Your responses on this inventory will become a portion of your file. Married men will be asked to have their wives give some reflection on a separate form, under the same conditions as above.

The premise of this inventory is as follows: The man who is prepared to examine his own heart with integrity and ruthless honesty is then well prepared to look into the heart of God and the heart of the people whom he has been given to shepherd. Further, of the qualifications listed for office in the Pauline passages of Timothy and Titus, the majority of qualifications listed focus directly on the character of the man. It behooves us, then, to take careful stock of character issues.

I have read and agree to the above,

Signed

(Husband)

Questions:

1. What measurable advances has the Lord made in your soul’s sanctification in the past five years?

2. What measurable advances have you been seriously praying for in the last six months?

3. When or what was the last thing you did, or chose not to do, directly because you loved Christ and were compelled by that love?

4. Please open Philippians 2:5-11 before you. With this text before you and meditating thereupon, how do the main themes of this passage bear upon your view of your life in ministry?

5. Are you presently experiencing real profit in your soul from the public means of grace? How so?

6. In what ways does your relationship with your wife positively mirror Christ's relationship to the church?

7. In what ways should your relationship with your wife more faithfully reflect Christ's relationship to His church?

8. Are there chronic areas of repeated failure in your marriage? Have you discerned any patterns to these failures?

9. How are you as the head of your home cultivating affection for your wife in your marriage?

10. Please explain your prayer life together.

11. As far as you can discern, are your children walking with Christ? What gives you reason to hope this is so?
12. Describe your greatest strength as a father.
13. Describe your greatest weakness as a father.
14. How are you concretely nurturing your children in the admonition of the Lord?
15. How would your children respond in answer to this question, "I know my daddy loves me because . . ."?
16. How do you show your children that you love them?
17. Please describe your patterns of family worship.
18. Is there anything in the area of sexual sin, and the lusts of the flesh, which has mastery over you? In addition, are you engaged in any spousal sexual unfaithfulness, sexual promiscuity or homosexuality?

19. Do you presently make use of or entertain any form of pornography?

20. Is your conscience clear before the face of God with respect to your TV and movie viewing habits?

21. Have you been completely above reproach in all of your financial matters? Taxes? Credit cards? Indebtedness? Tithes and offerings? Etc.

22. Is there any pending legal action against you, and/or are there large debts and creditors which impact you at this time?

23. Do you give to the Lord in His visible church regularly and proportionally?

24. To your knowledge, does anyone have an unresolved grievance against you?

25. Is there anyone, or a number of other men, to whom you are accountable at a deep personal and spiritual level besides your spouse? In other words, who knows you well enough to hold your spiritual feet to the fire? Are you meeting presently with that person or persons in an effective way?

26. When was the last time that you with brokenness and candor confessed specific sin to another and, as well, the last time you asked another for forgiveness of a known offense?

27. When do you find yourself becoming angry?

28. How do you resolve your anger?

29. How do you resolve conflict between you and your wife? Your children?

30. Which fruit of the Spirit in particular is being displayed in your life?

31. Is there fruit of the Spirit that is clearly missing by way of expression in your life?

32. Is there anything in your life at present that may legitimately be defined as an addiction?(e.g., alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, etc.)

33. Please describe the role of hospitality to others in your home.

34. How often do you entertain in your home, other than relatives?

35. Is the manner in which you spend your leisure time honoring to Christ, both in its motive and in the amount of time spent?

36. Do you have any excesses or habits in your life that may well bring reproach to the name of Christ by a watching world?

37. In what ways do you find yourself being critical of others? When others have criticized you, are there discernible patterns to these forms of criticism over the years?

38. When was the last time you shared the Gospel with an individual who did not know Christ? For whom are you presently praying that they might become a believer who, in your judgment, at this time is not in the grace of Christ?
39. Please describe your patterns of private communion with Christ in prayer.
40. What is your greatest spiritual struggle that has been consistent? What are you actively doing to gain victory in this area?
41. Are you presently harboring anything against a brother or sister in Christ's church? Are you harboring a bitterness of some kind toward someone?
42. Can you say with integrity that you are seeking to improve the talents that God has granted to you?

43. How does the sin of pride impact your view of yourself? Secondly, how does your pride impact the way you present yourself to others?

44. Are you taking care of your body through physical exercise and proper eating/sleeping habits, to the glory of Christ and His Spirit, whose temple you are?

45. Please list three books (Christian works, excluding required reading for academia) you have read this past year. Do you have a reading plan for the next year? Please describe.

46. As my wife and I approach the call of God in ministry, we together believe that the following three areas are our highest priorities for growth and sanctification, recognizing that they are areas of weakness which we acknowledge we must continually address with principled attention:

47. I have reflected on what has been written and affirm that this has been written with sincerity and integrity.

Please return this completed form electronically to the credentials assistant: pmvcredentials@gmail.com