

## SELF- EXAMINATION FOR CATECHISTS and MINISTERS OF THE WORD OF GOD

1. Do I see Jesus in all people coming to me?
2. Do I have the response of Jesus, in all situations and relationships? Am I another Christ?
3. Am I faithful in my ministry?
4. Have I made an effort to improve my ministry? Have I succeeded?
5. Do I practice what I preach? (Rom.2:21-24)
6. Do I reveal the secrets of others who I know through my ministry?
7. Do you seek any personal profit or benefit out of the ministry?
8. Do I appreciate my fellow ministers and co- workers?
9. Have I belittled another ministry or minister?
10. Have I shown disrespect towards the sacraments and the sacramental? Do I give due respect to holy articles and religious places? Do I handle the Bible with awe and respect? Do I keep clean and tidy the holy places and articles?
11. Do I cause scandal to anybody by negative criticism, slander, gossip, temper and jealousy over other ministers and disobedience to the Word of God and legal superiors? Do I cause scandal to anybody by word or deed (Mt. 18:6)
12. Will I get eternal reward by doing this ministry?
13. Do I have bitterness? "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness. You will not have any share in this ministry." (Acts 8: 21- 23)
14. Am I harboring hatred? See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God for through hatred many have been defiled. (Hebrews 12:15)
15. Am I jealous? When Saul was jealous of David, the Holy Spirit departed from him and he was possessed with an evil spirit that God sent. (1 Samuel 18:10)
16. Do I have illegitimate relationship with others? The book of judges has given an example through the story of Samson. Samson had a love affair with a Philistine girl, Delilah. This made him lose his hair, his life, his eyes and his charisms.
17. Do I consume alcohol? "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18) Both cannot work together. Good and Evil never co-exist.
18. Do I have unforgiveness? If keep unforgiveness in my heart my prayer will be denied or delayed. (Mk 11: 24-25)



19. Do I gossip? The intentions of one's mind and heart are known only to God and to a limited extent to the archangels. By one's slander or gossip, the evil spirit will conveniently take a hold of you by your spoken words, by which your intentions are known.

20. Do I destroy the good name of a fellow minister? (Judging others) "Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. You say, 'We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge the those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God?" (Romans 2:1-3)

21. Do I participate or extend any help for Satanic worship, resorting to black magic, witchcraft, idolatry, etc., for receiving supernatural blessings? Love for money and comfort is idolatry. (Col 3:5)

22. Do I have any sins against the Holy Spirit?

a. Depression or hopelessness: - Whatever I do, I will not get god's blessing in my life.

b. False presumption: - trying to go to heaven without doing good works is false presumption.

c. Rejection of the truth: - Truth is known but not always acknowledged. Jesus and His words are the truth.

d. Jealousy: - Am I jealous of anyone? Do I think that I am deprived of my benefits and progress, because someone has it?

e. Lack of Repentance: - All the above-mentioned amount to lack of repentance and is a sin against the Holy Spirit. If one repents even at the last moment, he will be forgiven. If there is no repentance, the soul will not be saved.

f. Choking the Holy Spirit and grieving Him by refusing to acknowledge and co-operate with Him. (Eph. 4:30-32)

g. Right to commit sin: - some people think that they have right to commit sin and remain in sin. This is also a sin against the Holy Spirit.

h. Are you stubborn against the Holy Spirit? (Acts. 7:51)

23. Am I intolerant? St. Paul says to the Corinthians: "Tolerate one another and settle all issues before going to court". (1Cor 6:1-8)

24. Do I need to be healed of my inner wounds and unloved experiences? If one still nurses wounded feelings and unloved experiences, it will affect his charisms.

25. Do I persist in sin? All violations take away one's charisms. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life..." (Romans 6:23) Charisms will die out and one becomes ineffective, if he persists in sin.



26. How do I handle the wounds of the people of God? If one handles the wounds of people irresponsibly, one's ministry will be destroyed and overthrown. "Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust again; from prophet to priest everyone deals falsely. They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' When there is no peace. They acted shamefully, they committed abomination; yet they were not at all ashamed, they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the Lord." (Jeremiah 8:10-12)

27. Am I ready to give up my sins and my sin and continue the ministry with tenfold zeal? If one falls from grace and does not return with tenfold zeal he will be destroyed by sickness and calamities. If he returns, he will be blessed. "For just as you were disposed to go astray from God... Return with tenfold zeal to seek him. For the one who brought these calamities upon you will bring you everlasting joy with your salvation." (Baruch 4:28-29)

28. "The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them- to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherds; and scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them. Therefore, you shepherd, hear the word of the Lord: as I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become food for all the wild animals since there was no Shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the lord: Thus says the Lord God, I am against the shepherds and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves, I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them" (Ezekiel 34:1-10).

29. Am I upright and holy in my behavior? A minister must lead a holy life. "For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quicktempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it." (Titus 1:7-9)

30. Do I insist on spiritual discipline? A minister should insist on spiritual discipline for others. "The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone." (Titus 3:8)



31. Do I intercede for my people daily? Intercession brings prosperity in one's life. Failure to intercede takes the prospective prosperity from one's life. The Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends and gave Job twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10). Intercession is the main duty of a pastor (1Tim. 2:1-3). Jesus intercedes for all (Rom 8:34 and Heb 7:25).

32. Am I disobeying the message of God? A minister who understands the Will of God, but purposefully does otherwise, will face destruction. A minister who commits sin and does not rectify the action will be thrown off board as Jonah was. (Jonah 1:4-13)

33. Am I angry with God? A minister has no right to be angry with God. "When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live'. But God said to Jonah, 'Yes, angry enough to die'. Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night.'" (Jonah 4:8-10)

34. Do I make unjust compromise? A minister should not sacrifice any moral values. The moment he sacrifices his moral values for monetary or material gain he will be punished and his ministry will be fruitless for long years. For example, Abraham compromised on his wife Sarah to Pharaoh and Sarah was barren until the age of ninety. (Genesis 12:10)

35. Am I always depending on my own wisdom and scientific knowledge in my ministry? Work of Salvation carried out by human prudence and wisdom takes a minister away from the Ministry for a long period of time. For example, Moses knew the Will of God about his work and mission among the Israelites. He used human wisdom and killed the Egyptian to save a Jew. He used human knowledge and prudence to reconcile the fighting Hebrews. This modus operandi took him away from his ministry to wilderness for forty years. (Ex 2:11-35)

36. Do I have any interest to find out lost sheep? Am I a good shepherd like Jesus Christ? (Luke 15:1-7)

37. Do you love Jesus Christ above other people in your life? Jesus Christ asked this question to St. Peter. St. Peter answered 'Yes I do'. Then Jesus said to him, 'Take care of my sheep' (Jn. 21:15-17). The progress of the ministry of a pastor depends upon the love that he has towards the Lord and the love towards the sheep whom Jesus loves most.

38. How holy is my life? Minister should lead a saintly life throughout his ministry from now onwards, as a penance for all his failures and weakness in his priestly ministry.

39. Priestly Ministry Jer 3:15 – I will give you priests after my own heart. They will feed the people by knowledge and wisdom. Mal 2:7 – Priests must keep wisdom in their mouths. They are the messengers of God.



## 40. Duties of the Priest Vat II. Priestly Ministry 4.

The people of God are joined together primarily by the word of the living God, and rightfully they expect this from their priests. Since no one can be saved who does not first believe, priests, as co-workers with their bishops, have the primary duty of proclaiming the Gospel of God to all. In this way they fulfill the command of the Lord: "Go therefore into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15), (5) and they establish and build up the People of God. Through the saving word, the spark of faith is lit in the hearts of unbelievers, and fed in the hearts of the faithful. This is the way that the congregation of faithful is started and grows, just as the Apostle describes: "Faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ." (Rom 10:17).

Source : <https://www.frjosevettiyankal.org/confession>

