

*Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ... (2 Peter 3:18)*

## Chapter 1 / SELF-INQUIRY

What does Ryle say was needed in his day? Is this still needed in ours?

According to Ryle what was religion like in 19th century England? How would you compare his situation in England with our current situation in 21st century America?

The main part of this chapter is a series of questions designed to promote SELF-INQUIRY. Immediately before he presents us with these questions, he makes the statement, "Believe me, he is your best friend who tells you the most truth." What does that statement mean to you? Can we be our own best friends by being truthful with ourselves in self inquiry?

### 1. Do we ever think of our souls at all?

What is the problem with not thinking of your soul? Do you agree with Ryle when he says such a life reduces us to the level of beasts?

What does that mean? In what ways do you see this at work in modern society?

### 2. Do we ever do anything about our souls?

In your own life how active are you in doing for your soul? We care for our bodies, for our physical health, what do we do for our souls, for our spiritual health?

### 3. Are we satisfied with a mere formal religion?

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Many are satisfied with a heartless religion, a going through the motions, how would you rate your heart for God?

***Deuteronomy 6:5 - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.***

***Matthew 15:8-9 - 8 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 9 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'***

**4. Have we asked for the forgiveness of our sins? Are you certain that you received Christ as your Savior?**

**5. Do we know “by experience” anything of conversion to God?**

Are there things in our lives that show, give evidence, to the argument we are NEW CREATURES, significantly different from men and women who are lost?

What are some of the evidences Ryle says we should look for?

**6. Do we know anything of practical Christian holiness?**

Is holiness equal to perfection? What according to Ryle and or according to you is Christian holiness? How much do you match Ryle’s description? Is this encouraging?

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**7. Do we know anything of the enjoying of the means of grace?**

What are the five principal things Ryle has in mind when he speaks of “means of grace?”

How, with what attitudes, feelings, heart do we respond to these means of grace?

**8. Do we try to do any good in the world?**

How much does our Christian life reach out to others? What can we do to improve in this area?

**9. Do we live in habitual communion with Christ?**

What is the difference between union and communion with Christ? What are the benefits of communion with Christ?

**10. Are you ready for Christ’s second coming?**

After asking these questions Ryle asks five more questions:

- a. Are you sleeping concerning the things of God?
- b. Are you feeling self-condemn and hopeless?
- c. Are you feeling without joy, peace and comfort?
- d. Are you oppressed with doubts and fears?
- e. Are you downcast because of trials?