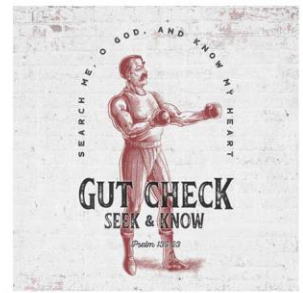


# My Perspective on People

With so much going on around us, we can't lose track of what's going on within us. A "gut check" is a pause to assess the state, progress, or condition of something. Let's assess the different facets of our relationship with God, and check if we've got what it takes.



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## INTRODUCTION

Pastor David opened his sermon by explaining that we tend to gravitate toward people who *are like us* or who *we like*. He also used the story of the Good Samaritan to explain that Jesus is the Good Samaritan and we are the beaten man. A relationship with Jesus Christ helps us to move beyond the influences in our lives (relationships, knowledge, and environments) that may not be positive toward those who don't like what we like and are not like us. The Holy Spirit allows us to love beyond the boundaries of those influences.

## STARTER QUESTION

As Christ followers, we need to complete gut checks or reality checks regularly so that we do not conform to the world, and to be sure that we are truly living and loving as Jesus did. How long has it been since you've completed a reality check? In what area(s) are you more influenced by the world than by Jesus?

## INTO THE WORD

Can you identify with the beaten man in Luke 10:25-37? Jesus paid a costly price for us while we were sinners or enemies of God (Romans 5:8). In what ways has He rescued you and helped you in your relationship with Him?

What does God's Word say about being Jesus' disciples (John 13:35 and John 15:9)? Name a few practical ways we can love one another as God does, without labels, prejudices or influences.

Many of us have probably made a sacrifice to help someone in need, and then patted ourselves on the back for doing so. Is this how Jesus would like for us to act/feel? Read Matthew 6:1-4 and explain how we should act/feel.

## APPLICATION

If a friend or family member confided in you that they were having a difficult time accepting or interacting with someone who was different, what advice would you give them?

Explain how the word *splagma* allows us to love beyond boundaries. Can you share a time when you looked beyond associations, relationships, what you know and your environment to love like Jesus?

Think of a time that you were like the beaten and dying man on the side of the road. Who showed you compassion and helped you get back on your feet? Have you been the good Samaritan for someone else and how did that feel?

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, please guide us in Your ways of love, grace, and compassion so that we are able to give these to others as you give to us. Help us to complete gut checks regularly to keep us on the right path in your Word and Truth. In Jesus name, Amen.