

[Special Series: Church Priesthood Ministry]
EVALUATING YOUR PRIESTHOOD MINISTRY

We are currently studying a special series on Church Priesthood Ministry. All of these Church Priesthood Ministry lessons come from Paul's use of the present imperative (command) taken from Galatians Chapter Six.

(Gal.6:1)	Restore	(katartizo)	Restoring trespass believers in the spirit of gentleness.
(Gal.6:2)	Bear	(bastazo)	Bearing one another's burdens in the love of Christ.
(Gal.6:4)	Examine	(dokimazo)	Examining one's priesthood regarding boasting in the Lord.
(Gal.6:6)	Sharing	(koinoneo)	Mutual sharing of all of God's goodness.

This lesson will study three aspects of Evaluating Your Priesthood Ministry.

1. There are two different Greek words for testing. Paul used both of them in (Gal.6:1-5).

- The first word for testing is **peirazo**. It was translated **tempted** in **(Gal.6:1)** as part of a warning to the mature believer in their priesthood ministry of the Spiritual Restoration of a carnal believer.
- The second Greek word for testing is **dokimazo**. It was translated **examine** in **(Gal.6:4)** as a part of evaluating priesthood ministry.

Example: Let me illustrate these two Greek words with David Butler and Josh Davenport of our church. They both graduated from Alabama's Law School by passing many **peirazo** tests in order to get a Law degree.

Then they must pass a **dokimazo** test, the state bar examination, in order to practice law in that state as a lawyer.

Every time a spiritually mature believer-priest ministers towards the spiritual restoration of a carnal believer, he must be aware of the many **peirazo testing's** involved in it. (1 Pet.1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Gal.4:13-16).

The spiritually mature believer must understand that the Lord periodically will require a **dokimazo test** regarding their priesthood practice. (1 Thess.2:4; James 1:12; 1 Cor.11:28)

2. You may recall that bastazo was used in (Gal.6:2) and was used differently in (Gal.6:5). The difference is in the priesthood application of ministry.

In (Gal.6:2), it is a **present imperative commanding** the spiritually mature believer to involve themselves in their priesthood ministry of bearing one another's burdens.

In (Gal.6:5), it is a **future indicative requiring** the spiritually mature believer to bear their own load (phortion) after being examined and approved (Gal.6:3-5; 2 Tim.4:16-18).

(Gal.6:5) "For each one shall bear his own load (phortion)." Notice that this comes after the dokimazo testing of their priesthood ministry (Gal.6:4)

The Greek term Phortion [load, weight] was used by Jesus in (Matt.11:28-30).

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden (phortion) is light.”

3. Notice that the third command of examining oneself (self-evaluation/ praise) was placed between (Gal.6:3) (self-deception/ pride) and (Gal.6:5) (self –assurance/ power).

SELF-EVALUATION (Praise):

(Gal.6:3) “**But (de)** [Adversative conjunction/ each one] (believer-priest) must examine (Dokimazo) (p.a.impv.3ps) his own work, and then (kai tote) he will have reason for **boasting** (to kauchema) in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.” (Gal.6:4)

(1 Pet.2:5) establishes the ministry of the priesthood of Christ.

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet.2:5)

The primary purpose of priesthood ministry is to bring **boasting in the Lord** (to kauchema) (Gal.6:4-5), rather than boasting of pride in oneself. (Self- deceptive) (Gal.6:3).

(1 Cor.1:31) “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, ‘Let him who **boasts, boasts in Lord.**’ (Jer.9:23-24; 2 Cor.10:17-18) (Read)

(Ps.44:8) “In God we have **boasted** all day long, and we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah.”