

# A TEST OF LOVE

In a perfect world love would only be enjoyed, never tested. But in reality the best test of a person's love is administered when someone is weak. God set the example:

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. —Rom. 5:7-8*

This Bible study is to help you evaluate if you have loved someone according to the model given to us by God. How do you know if you've done enough to restore a relationship? When, and how, do you let go to allow God to work things out? Many of the questions only make sense after you have read the Scripture reference. Study, pray, meditate and watch God change hearts. (Yes, that could include yours!)

1. List the issues of conflict (grievances) and level of difficulty to forgive each one. Are these grievances sins committed against you or possibly perceptions and/or opinions (of yours or his/hers) that you regard as important? (See Col. 3:13)

Grievance	Difficulty
A. _____	

- Sin to be dealt with
- Opinion to be discussed
- Perception to be clarified



List your closest common friends?

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Which one is most spiritual and able to keep confidences?

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8. If your attempt to address this one on one and with a common friend has not resolved this conflict and the individual remains in denial and/or in a defiant spirit who would be regarded as an authority in the church that should be consulted? (See Matt. 18:15-27)

Elder/Minister \_\_\_\_\_

Which one might be best suited to go with you to talk to this person?

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9. If you have spoken with others about this situation has it been to individuals that would tend to want you to win the argument or to individuals that are objective and want to promote healing and unity? (See Mt. 18:15-17)

List and pray for the people that know about this conflict.

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10. Have you said to others or done anything that this person could have heard and interpreted as vindictive or as "passing judgment on them?" (See Rom. 14:13, 12:17-18; Matt. 5:22)

Write from the other person's perspective how they might feel that they have been wronged by you.

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11. Describe the attitude you displayed the last time you had an opportunity to greet this person. (See Rom. 16:16)

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12. If Christ's love and forgiveness concerning your past actions and attitudes were the measure, what level of forgiveness should you extend and what actions and attitudes of this person should you be ready to forgive? (See Eph. 4:32; 5:19-21; 1 Peter 1:22)

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13. Has this person been warned previously of any sin related to this conflict you have described.

Yes/No

14. Are there any signs that this person is acting divisively, or is there any hint of a “bitter root” growing, or area of ministry hurting, because of this conflict? (See Titus 3:10, 11; Rom. 14:19-20; Hebrews 12:14-16)

Yes/No

If yes, explain...

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15. What action have you made in the last three weeks to express your devotion, Christian love and desire to have harmony in your relationship? (See Rom 12:10, 16; 13:8; 15:7-8; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32; 1 Pet. 4:9-10)

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16. If you set out to help this person are there any temptations that might overcome you in a weak moment? (See Gal. 6:1)

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17. Have you been giving money or serving in ministry, to the church and meeting around the Lord's Table without first trying to resolve this conflict? (See Matt. 5:24)

Yes/No

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18. If you were to treat this person as if they were a non-Christian, needing to be won to Christ, then what would those actions and attitudes look like? (See Matt 18:15-17)

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