

## Perfecting the Love Walk

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

### Common mistakes:

- ❑ Mistakes pastors make: Deal with issues from pulpit. One pastor would preach on love any time he was tempted to blast people.
- ❑ Mistakes Christians make: Not talking to people directly, but rather talking to others or venting on the e-mail or MySpace.
- ❑ Mistakes by all: overreacting emotionally to events rather than seeking God for wisdom on how to deal with it. They cut off relationships rather letting God bring healing.

### Signs you may need to perk up your love quotient:

- **Lack of desire of spiritual things, reading the bible- Coming to the assembly is a chore rather than a joy**

Mark 12:30-31 `And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."



- **Tired of working in the ministry. Lack of motivation to serve God's people in works of service**

Galatians 5:13 through love serve one another.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Sometimes, if we are not careful we do things to be seen by people



- **You are tired of people**

Different personalities have a common need: Love

Where is your love walk?

Ephesians 4:15-16 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- **You notice people quirks and idiosyncrasies often (& have no problem talking about them)**

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love,  
But he who repeats a matter separates friends.

Does my tongue need an examination? Does grateful thanksgiving pour out of my mouth regularly, or do I spend most of my time griping and complaining? Am I blessing people regularly with encouragement, or tearing them down with criticism and negativity? Have I grown so callous that I don't feel convicted when I malign a person's character by talking about him behind his back? (Lee Grady)

- **You are irritable and lack patience with other people**

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."



Do I need an attitude adjustment? If I don't walk with the limp of humility, pride will cause me to strut. Do I radiate the love, joy and peace of the Holy Spirit—or am I better known for anxiety, rudeness, cutting remarks and irritability? What happens when I am under pressure—do I manifest the sweet demeanor of a trusting heart, or throw a childish temper tantrum? (Lee Grady)

- **You are easily offended**

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all sins.

Love is the oil in the engine of life to make things run smoother, and it is the glue that holds us together as a body

- **You hold onto grudges and bring up the past about someone**

Leviticus 19:18 `You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.

- **We lack grace for other people – We expect them to be perfect or just like us**

People are not perfect, and if we would stop expecting that life would be easier - Give people grace God has given to us

Ephesians 4:2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,