

## Test Yourself to See if You're Walking in Love:

***Ask yourself the questions: How would we treat Jesus if He physically showed up? Would we ignore Him and act like He's not in the room, avoiding Him? No! We'd go out of our way to greet Him, to love on Him and fellowship with Him. That's how we're supposed to treat our brothers and sisters in the Lord.***

You'll never walk in God's perfect will as long as there's somebody in the body of Christ that you don't love. **If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.** 1John 4:20,21

Everybody in the body of Christ is going to sin or miss God sooner or later. There's not one born again child of God who hasn't missed God or sinned at one time or another. Jesus is our only example of a perfect person. Every minister you know, respect, and esteem highly is just as human as you are, and has family problems and issues just like you do to some degree or another. No minister has arrived, but you can't permit that to keep you from serving God. Don't let anything get you derailed from going on for God!

Paul said in Philippians 3:13,14, **Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

## It's Your Job to Restore One Another

If you know a believer or minister who has sinned, pray for them, help restore them, and do all you can to strengthen them. If they don't want to be restored, just keep praying that they come to themselves like the prodigal son did (Luke 15:17). We

can't afford to lose any members of the body of Christ to the ploys of the enemy, the devil. Satan's job is to deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24: **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

Galatians 6:1-10: **Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.**

**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

### **Correction in Church**

Deception can manifest in different ways. You can get deceived and think it's ok to sin, or think what you're doing isn't sin, though it is sin. You can become deceived by avoiding others who have sinned. You may think you have some scriptural reason for kicking somebody out of your church or your denomination. But if you don't exhaust the love walk first, what you do may be done in the flesh. And what you do in the flesh, you will reap what you sow.

God is going to know where your heart is when you take disciplinary action with someone. You want to make sure that you're inspired by the Holy Spirit, and not some other spirit. As a pastor, I've had to deal with people before. Some people wouldn't change, and were causing harm to others, but I did everything I could to

deal with them and help change them before I informed them they were not welcome anymore. This step can only be taken when you've done everything else, but a pastor has got to think about the flock, especially the babies.

You can't allow any strife, division or unscriptural teachings in, because the sheep will get confused. The devil will do all he can to destroy the work of God, and one thing he uses is people.

## Your Personal Life

If you've got friends or relatives who always want to get in strife, you're going to want to avoid that. Make sure you love them and pray for them that their eyes be opened up, but avoid strife at all cost. Strife is one of the worst things a believer can get into.

## Don't Think You are Flawless

The more spiritual you are, the more interested you will be in restoring someone because you don't want to judge anyone else, knowing that you're not flawless yourself. Jesus made a statement to a man who apparently thought he was flawless, had never committed adultery, never killed anyone, never bore false witness, and had always honored his father and mother. Jesus said: ***One thing thou lackest...*** (Mark 10:21). Apparently, the man had some kind of money issue, though he thought he had a clean record, as you can read:

**Mark 10:17-30: And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.**

**Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have**

riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men *it is* impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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