

**HOW DO I KNOW  
I'M A FOLLOWER  
OF CHRIST?**

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## HOW DO I KNOW I'M A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST? (PART THREE)

**THERE IS A CHARACTER TEST** but there is also a **RELATIONAL TEST** to know whether you are a genuine follower of Christ.  
It is a test on **HOW WE RELATE TO OTHERS AND TO EACH OTHER.**

### D. CAPACITY TO EXTEND GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

#### 1 JOHN 2:3-6 (EASY TO READ)

If we OBEY what God has told us to do, then we are SURE that we KNOW HIM.  
If we say we KNOW GOD but do not obey his commands, are are lying.  
The truth is not in us. But when we obey God's teaching, his love is truly working in us.  
This is how we KNOW that we are LIVING IN HIM. If we say we live in God,  
WE MUST LIVE the WAY JESUS LIVED.

#### JOHN 13:23 (AMPLIFIED)

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have LOVE AND UNSELFISH CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER.

#### EPHESIANS 4:32 (NIV)

Be kind and compassionate to one another, FORGIVING EACH OTHER, JUST AS IN CHRIST GOD FORGAVE YOU.

**WHEN PAUL SAID "FORGIVING EACH OTHER," THE PRESENT TENSE USE OF THE WORD "FORGIVING" INDICATES A MIND-SET, AN ATTITUDE, A HABIT. IT IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.**

*If you're a Christian, you aren't expected to treat others the way you've been treated by others; you've been called to treat people the way you've been treated by your Father in heaven. You don't forgive because the other person deserves it; you forgive because you've been forgiven. (Andy Stanley, pastor)*

*To be a Christians means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. (C.S. Lewis)*

*"At last I understood: in the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy."  
(*"What's So Amazing About Grace?"* by Philip Yancey)*

**IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY THAT WE LEARN TO BE LIKE CHRIST, THAT WE LEARN TO LOVE, FELLOWSHIP, AND FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER.**



## E. LOVE AND UNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

### 1 JOHN 3:14 (NLT)

If we LOVE our brothers and sisters WHO ARE BELIEVERS, it PROVES that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

### 1 JOHN 2:9-11 (EASY TO READ)

Someone might say, “I am in the light,” but if they HATE any of their brothers or sisters in God’s family, they are still in the darkness. Those who LOVE THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE IN THE LIGHT, and there is nothing in them that will make them do wrong. But whoever HATES their brother or sister is in darkness. They live in DARKNESS. They don’t know where they are going because the darkness has made them blind.

*If a Christian walks in the light and is in fellowship with God,  
he will also be in fellowship with others in God’s family.  
Love and light go together, much as hatred and darkness go together.  
In other words (and this is a sobering truth), it is IMPOSSIBLE to be in fellowship  
with the Father and OUT of fellowship with another Christian at the same time.  
(The Bible Exposition Commentary of 1 John 2:9-11)*

### 1 JOHN 4:20-21 (NLT)

If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who LOVE GOD must also LOVE THEIR FELLOW BELIEVERS.

*Relationship is pivotal to Christian theology, because God is Love,  
and Love is impossible outside of relationships.  
Relationships are the ecology of God’s kingdom, the new creation.  
(Leonard Sweet, What Matters Most)*

### EPHESIANS 2:19 (NLT)

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your experience of forgiveness?
2. How has Jesus used the church community to help you grow and mature in your walk with Him?