

ADAPTING AND MANNER OF LOVE TO THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP

	Loving Church Family ...			Loving Others...	
	 A. Ideal - in unity	 B. Who trespassed us (unknown sin)	 C. Who offended us (known sin)	 D. Loving a non-believer	 E. Loving an Enemy
1. Unity	Deep, Unhindered fellowship Acts 2:42: Devoted to fellowship 1 Jn 1:7: Walk in the light	Maintain Unbroken Unity/fellowship while gently restoring Gal 6:1: Restore in spirit of gentleness 2 Thes 3:14-15: Do not regard him as an enemy	Pursue reconciliation Mt 18:15: Go & tell him his fault Lk 17:3 - If your brother sin (known sin), rebuke him, & if he repents, forgive him. Mt 5:23-24: First be reconciled... then come...	Common ground 1 Cor 9:22: I have become all things to all people	Reconcile if possible Rom 12:18: If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
2. Evangelism	Partnering in ministry Phil 1:5: Partnership in the gospel Naturally flows from a united community of believers.	Restore to effective witness Gal 6:1: Restore such a one	Reconcile for united witness Jn 13:35: By this all people will know	Practical Help Share the gospel 1 Pet 3:15: Always be prepared to give an answer	Demonstrate Christ's love Rom 5:8: While we were still sinners
3. Support/ Accountability	Mutual encouragement in faith & life. Deeper support 1 Thes 5:11: Encourage & build one another up Healthy relationships & trust grow deep & mature Eph 4:17: speak the truth in love... grow.. in all aspects into Him	Support through gentle correction Gal 6:1-2: Bear one another's burdens Gentle accountability Gal 6:1: Restore in a spirit of gentleness Loving church family is the hardest form of Christian love	Support through loving confrontation Mt 18:15-17: Go & tell him his fault Direct, loving accountability Mt 18:15-17: Go & tell him his fault Jas 5:16: Confess your sins to one another	Be An Example Lk 10:25-37: Good Samaritan example 1 Pet 2:12: They may see your good deeds Positive Influence	Help despite hostility Rom 12:20: If your enemy is hungry, feed him Boundaries Mt 10:16: Shrewd as serpents & innocent as doves Loving enemies represents the highest form of Christian love Matt 5:44-48.
4. Prayer	Spiritual growth Eph 1:16-17: Spirit of wisdom & revelation Underpins all aspects of Christian interaction	Prayer for discernment & wisdom Col 1:9: Filled with the knowledge of his will	Prayer for reconciliation Mt 5:23-24: First be reconciled Jas 5:16: Pray for one another	Salvation Rom 10:1: My heart's desire...that they may be saved	Change of heart Mt 5:44: Pray for those who persecute you
5. Trespass/ Offence	N/A Preemptive forgiveness Prov 19:11: Overlook an offense Despite best efforts, trespasses & offenses occur in relationships.	Gentle restoration for unknown sins. Gal 6:1 - Restore him in a spirit of gentleness	Loving rebuke offenses, forgive upon repentance. Lk 17:3 - If he repents, forgive him	Show forgiveness through actions. Mt 5:16 - Let your light shine before others	Respond to hostility with love, leaving judgement to God. Mt 5:44 - Love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you
6. Correction	Mutual edification Rom 15:14: Instruct one another Jesus' commanded addressing sin in the community	Gentle restoration Gal 6:1: Restore in a spirit of gentleness	Loving rebuke Prov 27:5: Better is open rebuke than hidden love 2 Tim 2:25: Gently instruct those who oppose the truth	Respectful dialogue Col 4:5-6: Let your speech always be gracious	Respond to evil with good. Mt 5:39: Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also
7. Forgiveness	Preemptive forgiveness Prov 19:11: Overlook an offense Seize the initiative	Forgive as Christ forgave us Col 3:13: Forgive as the Lord forgave you It reflects God's forgiveness & maintains unity.	Forgive repeatedly Mt 18:21-22: Seventy-seven times After correction, forgiveness is essential for restoring relationships.	Show forgiveness through actions. Mt 5:16: Let your light shine.	Respond with love. Mt 5:44: Love your enemies
SUMMARY	UNITY	TRESPASS	OFFENSE	NEIGHBOR	ENEMY
Quality	Harmony - Ideal	Acceptance	Conflict	Indifference	Alienation
Limitation	Imperfection	Unawareness	Unresolved Tension	Lack of Fellowship	Opposition
Witness or Demonstration	Shared Testimonies	Grace n Action	Pursuit of Reconciliation	Consistent Integrity	Radical Grace

LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES AND LOVE OUR ENEMIES

Christian love beyond the church community. Love impacts society at large and serves as a witness to God's love for all people.

	Not Loving Your Fellow Believer (Apathy & Indifference)	Hating Your Fellow Believer	Loving Your Fellow Believer	Loving your Neighbor	Loving your Enemy (Unlovable)
1. Nature	Indifference to another's welfare 1 Jn 3:14-15 "in the darkness"	Active malice or desire to harm 1 Jn 3:14-15 "in the darkness"	Prioritizing others' wellbeing Phil 2:3-4 "value others above yourselves"	Actively seeking the good of others Mk 12:31 "Love your neighbor as yourself"	Choosing to love despite challenges Lk 6:27-28 "Love your enemies"
2. Manifestations	Neglecting to help or show compassion 1 Jn 3:17 "sees brother in need"	Refusing to forgive, speaking harshly Mt 6:15 "not forgive", Jas 4:11 "speak against"	Eagerness to forgive, proactively offering help Eph 4:32 "kind and compassionate"	Practical acts of kindness and service Lk 10:33-34 "But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him..."	Actively seeking ways to show love to difficult people Rom 12:20 "If enemy hungry, feed him")
3. Spiritual Implications	Spiritual stagnation 1 Jn 2:9-11 "in the darkness"	Walking in darkness 1 Jn 2:9-11 "in the darkness"	Walking in light, knowing God intimately 1 Jn 2:10 "lives in the light"	Fulfilling the law of Christ Gal 5:14 "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"	Profound spiritual growth and Christ-likeness Mt 5:44-45 "love enemies... children of Father")
4. Relational Consequences	Weakening bonds in the body of Christ 1 Cor 1:10 "no divisions"	Disrupting unity, creating stumbling blocks 1 Cor 1:10 "no divisions", Rom 14:13 "not... stumbling block"	Strengthening unity, building up the body of Christ Col 3:14 "binds... in perfect unity"	Building a just and compassionate society Mic 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."	Breaking down barriers, fostering reconciliation Rom 12:18 "live at peace"
5. Personal Impact	Spiritual emptiness Eph 4:31 "Get rid of all bitterness"	Bitterness, resentment Eph 4:31 "Get rid of all bitterness"	Joy and fulfillment in faith Jn 15:11 "joy may be complete"	Experiencing the fullness of God's love 1 Jn 4:12 "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."	Deep personal transformation and freedom from negativity Lk 6:35 "love enemies... reward will be great"
6. Behavioral Indicators	Sporadic, superficial interactions 3 Jn 1:10 spreading malicious nonsense"	Avoiding fellowship, harboring grudges 3 Jn 1:10 "malicious nonsense" Lev 19:17-18 "not hate... in your heart"	Regular, meaningful fellowship Heb 10:24-25 "spur one another on"	Going out of one's way to help others Lk 10:35-37 "The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said..."	Consistently reaching out to those often overlooked or avoided Lk 14:13-14 "invite poor, crippled"
7. Attitude Aspects Personal manner, disposition, opinion, attitudes & feelings regarding someone	Indifference to others' spiritual state Lk 18:9-14 "looked down on everyone"	Feeling superior, lacking empathy Lk 18:9-14 "looked down", Gal 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens"	Humility and genuine concern for others Phil 2:5-7 "mindset as Christ Jesus"	Seeing every person as worthy of love and respect Jas 2:8-9 "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."	Cultivating compassion and understanding for those different or difficult Col 3:12 "clothe yourselves with compassion"
8. Cognitive Elements	Overlooking others' needs Phil 4:8 "whatever is true... think about"	Dwelling on perceived wrongs Phil 4:8 "whatever is true... think about"	Intentional consideration of others Rom 15:2 "please neighbors... build them up"	Actively looking for opportunities to show love 1 Thess 5:15 "Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."	Consciously choosing to see the image of God in all people Gen 1:27 "God's image"
9. Communal Effects	Allowing coldness to develop Prov 6:19 "stirs up conflict"	Spreading discord, hindering worship Prov 6:19 "stirs up conflict", Mt 5:23-24 "reconcile"	Creating a warm, inviting church atmosphere Rom 15:7 "Accept one another"	Transforming communities through love and good deeds Mt 5:16 "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."	Fostering a radically inclusive and grace-filled community Gal 3:28 "all one in Christ"
10. Spiritual Warfare Aspect	Complacency in spiritual life Eph 4:26-27 "do not give devil a foothold"	Giving opportunity to the enemy Eph 4:26-27 "do not give devil a foothold"	Active resistance against spiritual attacks 1 Pet 5:8-9 "Resist him"	Demonstrating God's love to a watching world Jn 13:35 "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."	Powerful witness overcoming evil with good Rom 12:21 "overcome evil with good"