

## Are You Consistently Christ-like?

The following questions are meant to give you a general diagnosis in regard to Christ-likeness. You must be honest, even if it is painful. An answer that does not reflect the truth about you may give you a higher score and cause you to feel better about yourself but it will not ultimately challenge you to be more like Jesus. If you do not know the answer to a question the answer is probably, “no.” If you are not satisfied with “no,” ask your spouse.

Please answer the following questions “yes” or “no.”

1. I am at church what I am at home and vice versa.

This means that you are not pretending to be someone you are not. You cannot be accused of being a hypocrite. Your spouse and teen-age children know how you should answer this question.

2. I am true to my word.

This means that you do what you say you will do. When you say, “I’ll do that,” it is done ASAP. Good intentions are not enough. “Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He who . . . who keeps his oath even when it hurts. “ Psalm 15:1, 4.

3. I am careful to act truthfully in all of my relationships.

This means that truth and honesty are part of the fabric of your life. You would rather be embarrassed than deceive someone. So you tell the truth even if it makes you look bad whether it be at home, or at church, or at work. If you answer “yes” to this question you cannot remember a time in the past 3 months when you wilfully misled someone.

4. I spend quiet time with God listening for His word to me.

This means you set aside times of silence and solitude for God to speak with you. This is not your prayer time unless it is to offer a response to His word to you. You may answer “yes” to this question if you spend an hour a week in silence before Him.

5. It is obvious to others that I love people and forgive an offence quickly.

This means that your behaviour toward people, especially the young and old, is full of grace, patience, and love. Your demeanour is soft, not hard. You give grace in your relationships with people. You have time for people regardless of what they can offer you or your church.

6. I am free of habitual and/or secret sin.

This means you value holiness and fear the consequences of sin. You have placed safe guards in your life, which strengthen your resolve to be without sin. If you consistently struggle with one particular sin on a going basis (for example, anger, inappropriate sexual thoughts, gossip etc. You don’t need prompting at this point), you cannot answer “yes” to this question. Healthy leaders do not practice sin. If they do sin they immediately repent, confess, and seek the cleansing that is promised in His Word.

7. I have 2 or 3 close friends who keep me honest.

This means that you have an inner circle of friends with whom you share your greatest needs. They pray for you and ask you the tough questions about yourself, the ones you hesitate to ask.

8. I laugh hard at least once a week.

This means you have joy in life. You share Jesus' joy in the Father's activity, in the beauty of Creation, in His faithful provision for all of your needs. The glass is half full because He is at your right hand. Psalm 16.

9. I enjoy serving others and have little need for recognition.

This means that you delight in helping others even before helping yourself. The venue of service is immaterial. It may be physical labour or emotional support or mental work or spiritual encouragement; if God indicates that you are needed you respond with joy. At church meals you naturally and unobtrusively migrate to the end of the line. You are aware of the needs of others and act to meet them regardless of the setting. You do not talk about your "good deeds."

10. I trust God to look after my pain, my reputation, and my needs.

This means that you have come to the place in your life where you no longer strive to protect yourself. With Augustine you say, "Lord deliver me from the lust of vindicating myself." You give your pain to God that He might use it for His purposes. You recognize that He alone protects your reputation and life and you leave it to Him. Thus, you are free from the anxiety and worry that accompanies those who feel otherwise.

### Scoring

If you scored "yes" 7 or more times it would seem that you have achieved a good degree of health in this area. Continue to practice the things that brought you this health. If you scored "yes" 5 times or less you definitely need to give attention to this area of your life. A score of 5 or less will make it difficult to spiritually lead others without encountering difficulty and in fact you may even sabotage your own leadership with such a lack. If you need some assistance or would like to discuss this aspect of spiritual health with someone please do not hesitate to contact any member of the CCSB Church Strengthening Team: Bob Shelton at [rshelton@ccsb.ca](mailto:rshelton@ccsb.ca) or Hamish Buntain at [hbuntain@ccsb.ca](mailto:hbuntain@ccsb.ca).