

How CLOSE are you to Jesus?

Do I...

C_____ Jesus _____?

“So that in everything he might have supremacy” (Colossians 1:18).

- I can go hours without having more than a passing thought of Jesus.
- I spend more time and effort on my physical appearance than on cultivating the spiritual beauty that pleases Jesus.
- I can talk with others about weather, sports, news, kids, and marriage, but I struggle to talk about Jesus and spiritual matters.
- I prefer the company of people who don't love Jesus to the fellowship of those who do.
- I am more passionate about other things (work, hobbies, entertainment, pleasure) than I am about Jesus.
- I am more concerned about my bodily health and comfort than about the condition of my soul.
- I desire physical food while having little appetite for spiritual food.

L_____ to His _____?

“My sheep listen to my voice” (John 10:27).

- Reading the Bible is a chore, something to mark off my “to do” list.
- Private prayer and worship are perfunctory or non-existent.
- My heart is cold and indifferent, not tender and easily moved by what Jesus has done for me.
- I have a hard time coming up with something fresh to share when someone asks, “What has Jesus been doing in your life?”
- I am more influenced by books, movies, news, or people than I am by the words of Jesus.
- Evils that used to disturb my conscience no longer do.
- I am slow to respond to conviction over sin—or I ignore it altogether.
- I am not grieved by sin; it's no big deal to me.

O _____ His _____?

"If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15).

- I display attitudes or am involved in activities that I know are contrary to the Bible, but I continue in them anyway.
- I justify "small" areas of disobedience or compromise.
- I have been drawn back into sin habits that I put off when I was a young believer.
- The satisfaction I find in Jesus is not as strong as the allure of certain sins.
- There are aspects of my life that I am unwilling to give up for Jesus.
- I have become more attached to God's other gifts to me than to His greatest gift—Jesus.

S _____ His _____?

"Whatever you did for one of the least...you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

- I tend to hold tightly to money and possessions rather than being quick to give to meet the needs of others.
- I rarely give sacrificially to further Jesus' work in the world; I only give my "extras".
- I spend more time accumulating and maintaining material things than seeking the well-being of others.
- I am judgmental and critical of others—more focused on sin in others' lives than in my own.
- I am more concerned about having the right position than the right disposition toward others.
- I have broken relationships with other believers that I do not care to reconcile.

E _____ His _____?

“You will fill me with joy in your presence” (Psalm 16:11).

- Christianity is more of a checklist of things to do or not do than a relationship with Jesus.
- My service for Christ and others is motivated by a sense of duty or obligation.
- I tend to measure spirituality by performance rather than the condition of my heart.
- I am more concerned about what others think and pleasing them than about pleasing Jesus.
- I find myself becoming resentful over the hardships and demands of serving Jesus and others.
- I am formal and rigid about spiritual things rather than joyful and winsome.

Go back through each section and make each item you marked a matter of prayer and confession. Remember, godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Jesus wants to forgive you and restore your relationship with Him.

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7 DAYS of Loving Jesus

Day 1—**Read the following passages** that summarize the gospel of Jesus, then pick one to memorize and meditate on throughout the day: Romans 3:23-26; Romans 5:6-11, 12; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Day 2—**Read the book of 1 John**, then make a list of the characteristics of someone who knows and loves Jesus. Consider whether these practices are the pattern of your life.

Day 3—**Call another Christian** who is serious about following Jesus, and ask them how they keep Him central in their daily life. Ask for their prayers and counsel as you seek to love Christ more (Hebrews 13:7).

Day 4—**Approach your work** today as more than a way to make a living, but rather as an opportunity to serve Jesus (Colossians 3:23), “adorn” the gospel (Titus 2:10), and bless others (Ephesians 4:28).

Day 5—**Meditate on Jesus’ words** “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). Think of one way you could give to a specific person in need (and thus give to Christ), and make arrangements to do it within the next week.

Day 6—**Think of a Christian friend** who could use encouragement. Call them or drop by for a visit, then follow up with a handwritten note (John 13:34-35).

Day 7—**Begin your morning by praying** for the opportunity to share about Jesus with a non-Christian—then don’t be surprised when God gives you one! (1 Peter 2:9).