

CHARACTER CHECK FOR A LEADER

LOVE

- In your recent encounters with strangers or people who know, have you been consistently kind and compassionate?
- Is there any person against who you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy?
- Are there groups of people whom you find yourself stereotyping or discounting?
- Are you irritable, cranky or impatient, focusing mostly on your own agenda or needs?
- Do you have a complaining spirit, especially when others do not meet your expectations?
- Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?
- Have you recently extended yourself toward the poor, the imprisoned, the sick, or the elderly?
- Are you intentionally building at least one friendship with a non-churched person?
- Are you genuinely joyful person to be around these days?
- Do you intentionally create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation for those who follow your leadership?
- Do you use people for the achievement of your mission?

HUMILITY

- Do you put on a pretence of being something you are not?
- Are your conversations often self-serving or self-promotional?
- Do you have a stubborn, critical or unteachable spirit?
- Can you receive constructive criticism without becoming overly defensive?
- Are you overly concerned with your title, your image, your status in the organisation?
- If you are ruthlessly honest, do you consider yourself to be better than most other people, especially those you lead?
- Are you quick to genuinely celebrate the success of others, even when they accomplish “more” than you?
- Have you intentionally been performing any secret acts of service in recent days?
- Are you in any setting where you are a follower instead of a leader?

PURITY AND SELF DISCIPLINE

- Have you allowed anything to gain mastery over you – food, television, pleasure, alcohol, drugs, sports, the internet, etc?
- Do you listen to unwholesome radio or music, watch unwholesome television or movies, or indulge in any pornography?
- Do you allow impure thoughts about sex to stay in your mind?
- Are you engaging in any flirtatious activity or feasting on escapist thoughts with anyone who is not your spouse?
- Are you getting enough rest and practising the Sabbath?
- Is your life marked by too much noise or busyness, are you always in a hurry?
- Do you neglect or give little time to personal prayer and solitude?

INTEGRITY

- Have you recently lied, exaggerated, or embellished the truth?
- Have you followed through on your promises – is your word to others completely reliable?
- Do you do your work “with all your heart,” or is it easy for you to coast along on your gifts and reputation?
- Do you have a thankful heart toward God, frequently acknowledging His goodness and blessings?
- Are you honoring God with your finances, both in your personal life and in your leadership capacity?
- Is there any area of your life you are hiding from others to protect your image or position?
- Are you seeking to live the kind of life you urge (or teach) others to live?
- Are you opening up your life in an accountable way to at least one other person (besides your spouse) who will speak truth to you?
- Are you obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit as best you can discern them?
- Are you as fully devoted to God as you can be?

A GENERAL SPIRITUAL AUDIT

Questions to ask ourselves:

- Am I content with who I am becoming?
(Will I finish well?)
- Am I becoming less religious and more spiritual?
- Does my family recognise the authenticity of my spirituality?
- Does the love and presence of Christ flow out of me?
- Have I defined my unique ministry?
- Is my prayer life improving?
- Is my “spiritual feeding” the right diet for me?
- Is obedience in small matters built into my reflexes?
- Do I have joy?
- What is my motive for wanting to develop a relationship with God?