

Indelible

The Marks of Authentic Christian Faith

Sunday, April 11, 2010

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Message Truth:

Were you to honestly evaluate your life would you say that you are making a mess or leaving your mark? What differentiates a Christian from a non-Christian? What are the marks which define authentic Christianity? A Christian is simply one who has asked God for forgiveness and been forgiven. Many people claim to be Christians, but not all who claim the name are truly His. We are identifying ten distinguishing marks of authentic Christian faith. Last week we discussed the first two marks of a genuine work of grace: a Christian loves completely and a Christian will obey consistently. This week we will see that a Christian lives authentically and confesses continually. What indelible marks of your Christianity are visible to those who know you?

Indelible adjective 1. (of ink or a mark) unable to be removed. 2. Unable to be forgotten. Origin Latin indelebilis, from *in* - "not" + *delere* - "delete."

1. A Christian loves completely.

2. A Christian will o_____ c_____.

³¹ *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.* John 8:31

● I cannot be His disciple and not k_____ Jesus' teaching.

²⁷ *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* John 10:27

● A Christian will l_____ to and f_____ Jesus.

²¹ *Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

John 14:21

● To say I love Jesus and then not obey Him is a l_____.

¹⁰ *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.*

John 15:10

3. A Christian l_____ a_____.

⁶ *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;* ⁷ *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:6-7 (NASB)

● To profess one l_____ and p_____ another is a lie.

¹⁵ *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶ *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

- Loving the world p_____ me from authentically l_____ the Father.

²⁶ *Whoever serves me **must follow me**; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.* John 12:26

- True Christians m_____ f_____ Jesus!

- Those who s_____ Jesus will be h_____ by His Father.

²⁷ *Religion that God our Father accepts as **pure and faultless** is this: to **look after orphans and widows in their distress** and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.* James 1:27

- Authentic religion leads to a _____, especially where those who cannot h_____ themselves are concerned.

¹⁴ *Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.* ¹⁵ *Be diligent in these matters; **give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress**.* ¹⁶ *Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.* 1 Timothy 4:14–16

- A Christian will u_____ and seek to i_____ their g_____.

4. A Christian c_____ c_____.

⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.* 1 John 1:9-10 (NASB)

- The way to f_____ is confession.

¹⁶ *Therefore **confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed**. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* James 5:16

- My confession m_____ my sin.

¹⁴ *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.* ¹⁵ *But **if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins**.* Matthew 6:14–15

- To be f_____, a Christian must also be willing to f_____.

Beware, I pray thee, of presuming that thou art saved. If thy heart be renewed, if thou shalt hate the things that thou didst once love, and love the things that thou didst once hate; if thou hast really repented; if there be a thorough change of mind in thee; if thou be born again, then hast thou reason to rejoice: but if there be no vital change, no inward godliness; if there be no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then thy saying "I am saved" is but thine own assertion, and it may delude, but it will not deliver thee. —Charles Haddon Spurgeon