

Indelible

The Marks of Authentic Christian Faith

Sunday, April 18, 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. We have discussed the first three marks of a genuine work of grace: a Christian loves completely, a Christian will obey consistently, and a Christian lives authentically. This week we will see that a Christian confesses continually and knows competently. 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 obey consistently.
3. A Christian lives authentically.

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_____.

5. A Christian k_____ c_____.

²⁷ *"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and **no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.**"*
Matthew 11:27

- Knowing God the Father is only p_____ through Jesus, God's Son.
- We can know God the Father only because Jesus chooses to r_____ Him to us.

¹¹ He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."
Matthew 13:11

- We can know because God has g_____ this knowledge to us.

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ **We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.**" John 6:66-69 (NASB)

- Notice that the disciples' knowledge f_____ their belief.
- This explains how a Christian can know something (spiritual wisdom) so clearly while a non-Christian c_____.

¹⁹ Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." John 8:19

- To know Jesus is to know His F_____ also.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—" John 10:14

- Jesus' f_____ know Him.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

- When belief is followed by obedience, knowledge of the truth will f_____.
- It is this knowledge that leads us to true f_____.

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:17

- Those who know Jesus will also know God's S_____.
- God's Spirit I_____ in and is with all those who know Jesus.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. John 17:7-8

- Jesus' followers accept His words because they know for c_____ that He is God's Son.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. John 1:10-11 (NASB)

- Those who do not know Him will not r_____ Him.

Lord, I crawled across the bareness to you with my empty cup, uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. If only I had known you better. I'd have come running with a bucket.

- Nancy Spiegelberg, "Bibles and Buckets," Our Daily Bread