

Indelible

The Marks of Authentic Christian Faith

Sunday, April 25, 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. Over the past three weeks we have discussed the first five marks of a genuine work of grace: a Christian loves completely, a Christian will obey consistently, a Christian lives authentically, a Christian confesses continually, and a Christian knows competently. This week we will see that a Christian believes confidently and is fruitful. 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 confesses continually.
5. A Christian knows competently.

6. A Christian b_____ c_____.

Confidence replaces anxiety and trust is swapped for fear in the life of the true follower of Christ.

¹⁵ *and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."*

Mark 1:15 (NASB)

- Belief cannot be s_____ from the Gospel.

²³ " 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:23–24

- Confident belief is the k_____ to receiving God's blessings.
- Each Christian must ask God to help us overcome our u_____.

¹² *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*

John 1:12

- Belief in Christ is p_____ to becoming a child of God.

³⁰ *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.* ³¹ *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John 20:30–31

- John's gospel is written so that we may believe c_____ in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

¹⁶ *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.*

Romans 1:16

- The gospel is only the power of God for salvation to those who b_____.

⁴ *Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. . . .* ⁹ *That if you*

confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. . . .¹¹ As the Scripture says, "Anyone who **trusts in him** will never be put to shame. . . ." ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not **believed** in? And how can they **believe** in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? . . .

¹⁶But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has **believed** our message?"

Romans 10:4,9,11,14,16

● Scripture uses repetition for the purpose of e_____.

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having **believed**, you were marked in him with a seal, the promise of the Holy Spirit,³

● Belief is an indelible m_____ of a Christian.

⁸ *Though you have not seen him, you love him*; and even *though you do not see him now, you believe in him* and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 1 Peter 1:8

● Love and belief together fill us with joy and mark us as His d_____.

7. A Christian is f_____.

⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself**; it must remain in the vine. **Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.** ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. **If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. . . .⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.** . . . ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I **chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.** Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 15:4-5,8,16

- Authentic Christianity bears fruit n_____.
- The first fruit of a Christian is other C_____.

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ **By their fruit you will recognize them.** Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?" ¹⁷ **Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** ¹⁸ **A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.** ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them.** Matthew 7:15–20

● Fruitfulness is a legitimate t_____ for authenticity.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.** ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:20–23 (ESV)

● Christian fruitfulness leads to s_____ and life everlasting.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:22–24

● The second fruit of a Christian is the fruits of the S_____.