

Indelible

The Marks of Authentic Christian Faith

Sunday, May 2, 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 marks six and seven of a genuine work of grace: a Christian believes confidently and a Christian is fruitful. This week we will see that a Christian lives a changed life and gives generously. 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 believes confidently.
7. A Christian is fruitful.

8. A Christian I _____ a c _____ I _____.

²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he **cannot be my disciple**.²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me **cannot be my disciple**." Luke 14:26–27

- Jesus must be my f _____ love for me to be a disciple.
- Following Jesus w _____ be c _____ to me!

³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has **cannot be my disciple**. Luke 14:33

- Following Jesus does NOT just cost me s _____ - it cost me e _____!

⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that **we should no longer be slaves to sin**— Romans 6:6

- As a follower of Christ the hold s _____ has on me has been radically a _____.

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that **you must no longer live as the Gentiles do**, in the futility of their thinking.¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.²⁰ You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.²¹ Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.²² **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;**²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

²⁴ and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. ²⁵ **Therefore each of you must put off falsehood** and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.** Ephesians 4:17–32

9. A Christian g_____ g_____.

⁶ Remember this: **Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.** ⁷ **Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** ⁸ And **God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** ⁹ As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ **Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.** ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of

thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ **Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!**

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

- As a follower of Jesus, I s_____ g_____.
- The law of the s_____ applies to my giving.
- All of my giving should be done without c_____.
- I give because I want to give, and never because I have been c_____ to do so.
- God is able to m_____ His grace to me so that I will have all that I n_____.
- God will supply and enlarge my store of s_____ and the harvest of my righteousness.
- As I g_____, God will make me grow richer so that I can become more g_____.
- These gifts which I give will s_____ the needs of God's people and will lead to many thanks being given to God.
- Others will praise God because of the o_____ of my confession to the gospel.
- Others will also praise God for the g_____ of my obedience in giving.