

Indelible

The Marks of Authentic Christian Faith

Mother's Day Sunday May 9, 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 eight and nine of a genuine work of grace, a Christian lives a changed life and a Christian gives generously. This week we will conclude this series by noting that a Christian life, lived appropriately, impresses deeply. Mom with what indelible marks are you deeply impressing upon your children?

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 completely.

7. A Christian is fruitful.
8. A Christian lives a changed life.
9. A Christian gives generously.

10. A Christian Life I _____ D _____.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.** Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)

- A Christian life is observable.
- A Christian's lifestyle brings glory to God.
- When others see a Christian life lived they are impressed.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from sinful desires**, which war against your soul. ¹² **Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.**

- Christians are aliens in this world.
- Sinful desires wage war against our souls.
- A Christian lifestyle will cause non-Christians to notice and give God glory.

Here's the gospel: you're more sinful than you ever dared believe; you're more loved than you ever dared hope.

—Tim Keller

What Constitutes a Christian Lifestyle?

¹³ **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,** ¹⁴ **or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.**

- **Submission. We all are to live under authority.**

¹⁵ **For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.** ¹⁶ **Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.** ¹⁷ **Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.**

- **God's will is that my Christian life will silence the lost's foolish talk.**
- **As Christian's we are free.**
- **I am NOT to use my freedom as an excuse to do evil.**
- **I am to be rightly related to everyone, God, my church, my government.**

¹ *Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,* ² *when they see your respectful and pure conduct.* 1 Peter 3:1-2 (ESV)

- **A wives Christian conduct can lead her lost husband to Christ.**

¹⁸ **Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.** ¹⁹ **For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.** ²⁰ **But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? **But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.****

1 Peter 2:11-20

- **A slave or an employee should submit to and show proper respect for his owner or employer regardless whether or not they deserve it.**
- **God's will bless you is you suffer because we are living for Christ.**
- **Suffering because we are being punished for our own misdeeds will not bring us His favor.**

The Origin of Mother's Day

Anna Jarvis was born in Grafton, West Virginia, in 1864. She witnessed the aftermath of the Civil War. Her mother, Anna Maria Reeves-Jarvis, organized women to nurse wounded soldiers from both the North and South. After the war, Anna Maria started "Mothers' Friendship Days" to reconcile families that had been divided by the conflict. Anna Maria modeled the ideals of motherhood. She gave up her dreams of college in order to tend to her ailing husband and four children. She bore the loss of seven other children with grace. She taught Sunday school in the local Methodist church for 20 years and stayed active in other benevolent work. Anna Maria died in 1905. Two years later, Anna got the idea for a holiday remembering her mother, and all mothers, whom she felt could never be thanked enough. Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908 in Grafton and Philadelphia. Later, Congress passed a resolution on May 8, 1914, establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.