

DO YOU KNOW HIM?
"The Mark of a Christian"
John 13:31-38

INTRODUCTION:

1. The mark of a true follower of Christ is more than outward symbols...the mark of a true follower of Christ is the internal attitude of the heart.

a) **Romans 2:29**

b) **Romans 10:9-10**

2. Saved people have had their hearts transformed by the power of the Gospel.

a) **Titus 3:4-7**

3. When a person has been transformed by the power of the Gospel it will be visible in the believer's life.

a) **Colossians 3:12-15**

4. **SO VERY IMPORTANT:** The Mark of a Christian can be summed up in one word: "**LOVE**"

a) **Romans 1:16**

1) "power" - Greek = *dunamis*; English = *dynamite*

5. When we are "**regenerated**" by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are then "**indwelt**" by the Holy Spirit.

a) **Romans 12:9-21** (turn there) powerfull!!!

6. Because of regeneration believers have been divinely "**enabled**" to obey the greatest commands the Lord gives to us.

a) **Mark 12:30-31**

7. Our love for God is most clearly demonstrated through **OBEDIENCE** not through lip service.

8. Paul preached that a believer should display:

a) **Repentance**

1) **Acts 26:20**

b) **Love for God**

1) **Romans 8:28**

c) **Grief over sin**

1) **2 Corinthians 7:10**

d) **A commitment to prayer**

1) *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

e) **Being selfless**

1) *1 John 2:9-10*

f) **Separating from the world**

1) *James 4:4*

g) **A desire for God's Word**

1) *1 Peter 2:1-3*

9. From **13:31 through the end of Chapter 16** Jesus gives His farewell address.

THREE ASPECTS OF SELFLESS LOVE

I. THE EXTREME EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE

1. The greatest expression of love is "self-sacrifice."

a) ***John 15:13-15***

b) ***1 John 3:16***

2. ***Philippians 2:8***

a) The cross was the place of Jesus greatest humiliation.

3. ***Philippians 2:9-11***

a) The cross was the place where Jesus was most glorified.

4. Jesus gives us **3 statements about that glory.**

a) **Vs 31a**

1) ***"Now is the Son of man glorified"***

a. This refers to His death on the Cross.

2) ***Colossians 2:14***

b) **Vs 31b**

1) ***"and God is glorified in Him"***

a. Christ's death revealed God's **JUSTICE**

b. Christ's death revealed God's **HOLINESS**

c. Christ's death revealed God's **LOVE**

d. Christ's death revealed God's **FAITHFULNESS**

c) **Vs 32**

1) This looks beyond the cross to Jesus exaltation.

a. **Romans 8:34**

b. **Ephesians 1:20**

2) Jesus longed to return to glory

a. **Philippians 2:9**

3) **Vs 33**

II. CRUCIAL COMMAND FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

1. **Vs 34**

a) "**even as**"

2. How in the world is it possible to love like Jesus?

a) **Romans 5:5**

b) **Ephesians 5:2**

c) **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

3. **Francis Shaffer** - "*The Mark of the Christian*"

a) Shaffer lists 2 very practical ways a Christian can manifest love for each other.

1) **First** - By being willing to apologize and seek forgiveness from those we have wronged.

a) **Matthew 5:23-24**

2) **Secondly** - By granting forgiveness when somebody apologizes to you.

a) **Matthew 18:21-35**

b) **1 John 4:10-11**

c) **Ephesians 4:32**

4. The Lord's command extends beyond believers to all people.

a) **1 Thessalonians 3:12**

b) **Hebrew 13:2**

5. **Vs 35**

a) "**By this all people will know**"

1) The world knows whether or not, you are a disciple or not by the way we love each other.

b) But what persuades unbelievers is the LOVE we have for one another!!!

6. Francis Shaffer goes on to say this:

"There is a mark which if the world does not see, allows them to conclude, "This person is not a Christian."

"The church is to be a loving church in a dying culture...Jesus is giving a right to the world. Upon his authority he gives the world the right to judge whether you are born-again Christians on the basis of our observable love toward other Christians."

III. THE MARVELOUS MAGNITUDE OF JESUS LOVE

1. Vs 36

a) *"Simon Peter said to Him, 'Lord, where are you going?'"*

b) *"Jesus answered, 'Where I go you cannot follow me now, but you will follow later.'"*

2. Vs 37

a) *"Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.'"*

3. Vs 38

4. Matthew 26:69-27:5

5. John 21:15-17; 18-19

CONCLUSION:

I. THE EXTREME EXPRESSION OF GOD'S LOVE - *The Cross*

II. THE DIVINE DESIRE FOR JESUS LOVE - *That we love one another unconditionally*

III. THE MARVELOUS MAGNITUDE OF GOD'S LOVE - *We will always be His*