

# **The Marks of a Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ**

Denying self

Daily cross-bearing

Following Christ

Imitating Christ

Obeying Christ

Learning Christ

Exclusive love to Christ

Unity with other disciples

Practicing righteousness

Loving one's Christian brothers

Forsaking all one's possessions for Christ

**The Lord Jesus Christ's High Priestly Prayer**  
**John 17**

Jesus prays for Himself :1-5

Jesus prays for His disciples (apostles) :6-19

Jesus prays for all believers :20-26

**Marks of a Disciple**  
**John 17:20-26**

For whom was Jesus praying? v. 20

What was His concern for all believers? v. 21

What is the pattern of this oneness? v. 21

Toward what goal does this unity look? v. 21

“The unity of Christ's followers is to be a

**BOLD STATEMENT**

to the world

that the Lord Jesus Christ

was sent by the Father;

that He is Who He claimed to be:

**God in the flesh.”**

## Unity

I Cor. 1:10 “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that you all speak the same thing*, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together *in the same mind and in the same judgment.*”

“Paul is emphasizing the unity of doctrine in the local assembly of believers, not the spiritual unity of His universal church. Doctrinal unity, clearly and completely based on Scripture, must be the foundation of all church life. (John 17:11, 21-23; Acts 2:46, 47). Both weak commitment to doctrine and commitment to disunity of doctrine will severely weaken a church and destroy true unity. In its place, there can be only shallow sentimentalism or superficial harmony.”

*Concerning “the same mind . . . same judgment”:*

“The demand is for unity internally in their individual minds and externally in decisions made among themselves ---unified in truth by beliefs, convictions, standards, and in behavior by applied principles of living. . . The only source of such unity is God's Word which establishes the standard of truth on which true unity rests.”

JF MacArthur, Daily Bible, p. 834

# Two Marks of a Disciple

Unity

Love

The Standard of Love

The Nature of Love

The Results of Love

The Demonstration of Love

## The Disciple's STANDARD of Love

John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; *as I have loved you*, that you also love one another.”

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another *as I have loved you*.”

I John 3:16 “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us; and *we also ought to lay down our lives* for the brethren.”

I John 4:11 “Beloved, if God so loved us, *we also ought to love* one another.”

Cf. v. 10

## Love's Demands

Jesus said, “You shall love the LORD your God  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
and with all your mind.

This is the first and great commandment.”

Mt. 22:37-38

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word. . . .”

Eph. 5:25-26

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . .

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Rom 8:35ff

## **Nature of Love**

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.”  
I John 3:16

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” I John 3:18

“In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” I John 4:9-10

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”  
Rom. 5:8

Cf. Romans 8:35ff.

## **Nature of Love**

Love is sacrificial in nature.

Love is giving in nature.

Love is active in nature.

Love is unselfish in nature.

Love seeks the good of the one loved.

Love seeks to meet the needs of the one loved.

Love is unthwarted by the unloveliness of the  
object loved.

## Results of Love

God's love manifested by humans demonstrates who is a child of God and who is a child of the devil.

---practicing righteousness

---loving one's brother

I John 3:10

Loving one's brother gives certainty of knowledge that we have passed from death to life. I John 3:14

Absence of demonstrated love (ie, closing one's heart to an obvious need) indicates that the love of God does not abide in that person. I John 3:17

The presence of active love

--gives confidence to the believer that he is of the truth.

--assures the believer's heart before God.

I John 3:19

The love believers have for one another comes from God, and is evidence that a person is born (again) of God and (thus) knows God. The converse is true for the one who does not love.

I John 4:7-8

## DEMONSTRATION of Love

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to *lay down one's life* for his friends. John 15:12-13

“By this we know love, because He *laid down his life* for us. And we ought to *lay down our lives* for the brethren.”  
I John 3:16

“But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?  
v. 17

\* \* \* ---Love ministers to physical needs.

“My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”  
v. 18

\* \* \* ---Love demands action.

The love of God in us must be demonstrated by loving actions toward others, not simply by telling others that we love them.