

Do You Display the Mark?
Theme: Recognizing the Significance of Sincere Love
Romans 12:9a

Introduction: What is the Mark of a great _____?

It is the things they do that others fail to do and that these things they do are easily observed and recognized by those watching.

Aristides, 2nd Century Philosopher, Describes the Mark

What is the Mark of the True Christian?

I. An Ariel View is Needed if we are to Understand the Message

- A. The Declaration: The Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation. 1:1-17
- B. The Problem: Man is depraved and unable to save himself. 1:18-3:20
- C. The Solution: Justified by God through Faith in Christ alone. 3:21-5:20
- D. The 1st Explanation: Available Resources for Victorious Living 6:1-8:39
- E. The 2nd Explanation: God's Sovereign Plan for Israel 9:1-11:32
- F. The Doxology: The Proper Conclusion to Gospel Theology 11:33-36
- G. The Application: Putting into Practice our Position 12:1-16:27**

II. A Quick Glance at "Therefore" provides the Motivation 12:1-8

- A. The "Therefore" of Condemnation 3:30
- B. The "Therefore" of Justification 5:1
- C. The "Therefore" of Assurance 8:1
- D. The "Therefore" of Commitment 12:1**

- 1. The Gospel changes our _____: *"a living Sacrifice"*
- 2. The Gospel changes our _____: *"be transformed by the renewing"*
- 3. The Gospel changes our _____: *"what God's will is"*
- 4. The Gospel changes our _____: *"not all have the same function"*

The Big Idea: Our motivation, in everything we do, is the _____!

III. An Up Close Examination of "Love" reveals the Mark 12:9a

A. A Serious Command: "love must be sincere"

- 1. _____ is the Mark that is easily observed and recognized.

2. Love is the _____ to another that moves us to act on his/her behalf, equal to or above our own concerns or needs.
3. Love is the _____ for all "Supernatural" living. (9b-21)

B. A Serious Consequence: (What does Jesus say about love?)

1. The world has been granted the right to determine whether or not you are a Christian by the way _____ love others. John 13:34-35
2. The world has been granted the right to determine whether or not the Father sent His Son by the way _____ model Biblical oneness. John 17:21
3. This is not...
 - a. A license to judge other believers.
 - b. A test of salvation.
 - c. Perfectionism.
 - d. An excuse for ignorance of truth.
 - e. Unity at all costs.
4. This is...
 - a. A prerogative Jesus granted.
 - b. A test of obedience.
 - c. The world's only measuring stick.
 - d. Applicable to all true believers.
 - e. The final defense.

Application: How is this love observed?

1. Love is best observed with "I'm sorry" when we're failed and "I forgive you" when failed by others.
2. Because of God's holiness we must, at times, differ with others in doctrine or life, but we must do this with regret and the desire toward resolution.
3. To show this kind of love will at times be extremely costly.
4. Love displays "observable unity" even in the midst of differences.
5. Love is the mark Christ gave Christians that when exhibited says to the observer, "Jesus has indeed been sent by the Father"!

Conclusion:

1. Paul teaches the same principles in Romans 12:14-21.
2. Paul concludes his masterpiece with an emphasis on love. 16:17-27

Do you display the mark?