

Marks Of A Genuine Christian

*“...and the sheep listen to his voice...
and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
However, a stranger they simply will not follow,
but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.”
John 10:3-5 (NASB)*

*“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple...”
Luke 14:27 (NASB)*

*“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
Or do you not recognize this about yourselves,
that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?”
2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)*

Exactly what the evidence is to indicate someone is a Christian varies from one group to another. For example, some denominations do not believe you can know for sure that you are a genuine believer while other groups say that if you pray “the sinner’s prayer” you are definitely a genuine Christian.

Often we hear parents of wayward children lament their child’s godless lives. After describing how their children are in a place far removed from the path of obedience they finish with a comment like, “Well at least they have made their decision.” So, the loving parent clings to the idea that their godless child is safe though living a life of disobedience.

According to Jesus the mark of a true Christian is that they

hear and follow His voice. If you are listening for the voice of Jesus and intend to follow Him you have proof you belong to Him. But, if you are not seeking to hear Him nor are following Him, then Jesus says you do not belong to Him.

Take heart believer and study that little book near the end of the New Testament, 1 John. It has been written for those who lack assurance of their salvation (1 John 5:13). Find evidence in it of how the Holy Spirit has changed you and is making you more and more into the image of Christ. You are fellowshiping with God’s people (1 John 1:3-4), you do not walk in sinful ways (1 John 1:6) you are confessing your sin (1 John 1:8-9). On it goes describing the marks of the people of God.

Never does the Bible assure anyone they are children of God because they have at some point in time prayed a certain prayer. Listen to the Word of God today and examine yourself to see the marks of a genuine Christian. All of us as believers need to encourage ourselves through examining the teaching of the Bible on this vital subject.

May you be blessed today as the light of Scripture brings peace and assurance to you. Rise up confident you are a child of God. He has promised never to leave or forsake you. Though all the forces of hell attack you, your sovereign Master will fight your battle and He will certainly win!

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