



BIRTHMARKS OF THE BELIEVER

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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Birthmarks of the Believer

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 John 2:3-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2103

When we got saved, God put some indelible marks upon us. 1 John 2:3-10 reveals three traits of those who are born again—birthmarks of the believer.

First, a true believer submits to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4). Nobody can be saved without receiving Jesus Christ as Lord. If we say He is Lord, we must keep His commandments. The commands of the Lord are something to guard, to treasure. We don’t do this in order to be saved; we do it because we are saved and we love the Lord.

Second, a true believer seeks the lifestyle of Jesus.

“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:5-6). The purpose of being saved is to be made like Jesus; as we follow His example, we become like Him. He lived a life of honesty, purity, and righteousness. He didn’t merely abstain from doing what is wrong, He went about doing good.

If we want to live like Jesus, we must also fully rely on Him, live with relinquishment as a branch abides in a vine. Adrian Rogers says, “There’s only one person who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus. We walk as He walked because we abide in Him.”

Finally, a true believer shows the love of Jesus: “He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him” (1 John 2:10). Love is the first and greatest commandment; Jesus doesn’t love us because we’re lovely... He just loves us. One of the birthmarks of believers is that they love others as Jesus has loved them.

Life Application

Do you have the birthmarks of a believer?

Adrian Rogers says, “If a person is saved, it’s going to show in his life. You’re not saved by keeping the commandments, by walking as Jesus walked, or by loving your brother. But if you are saved, you will do these things.”



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) When we were Heaven-born, we became Heaven-bound.
- b) When we were Heaven-born and Heaven-bound, God put some indelible marks upon us.
 - i) These are the traits of the twice-born.
 - ii) These are the birthmarks of the believer.
 - (1) If we do not find these birthmarks or traits, then we need to ask ourselves if we have ever really been saved.
 - (2) It is one thing to talk religion; it is another thing to have it.
- c) 1 John 2:4
- d) 1 John 2:6
- e) 1 John 2:9
 - i) Each of the above verses begin with “He that saith...”
 - (1) It is one thing to talk the talk; it is another thing to walk the walk.
 - ii) Each of these phrases also introduces a trait of the twice-born, a birthmark of the believer.
- f) Today’s message will look at these traits and see what a true believer is.

2) A TRUE BELIEVER SUBMITS TO THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

- a) 1 John 2:3-4
- b) No one can be saved without receiving Christ as Lord.
 - i) Acts 16:31
 - ii) Romans 10:9
 - iii) We don’t receive Christ as Savior and then later make Him Lord.
 - (1) We receive Him as Lord and Savior at the same time.
- c) It is a contradiction to say that Christ is your Lord, yet you don’t keep His word.
 - i) Luke 6:46
 - ii) “Lord” means “Master.”
 - (1) He has every right to give His commandments.
- d) If a person claims to be a Christian but doesn’t keep Christ’s commandments, then the apostle John says that that person is a liar.
 - i) 1 John 2:4
 - ii) This does not mean that we have to be perfect in order to go to Heaven.
 - iii) “Keep” in 1 John 2:4 means “to guard,” as someone would guard a treasure.
 - (1) When we treasure the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are precious to us, we set value in those commandments.
 - iv) The word “keep” was also used by sailors in ancient times.
 - (1) At night, the sailors would steer by the stars.
 - (a) This was called “keeping the stars.”



- (b) They would set their course by keeping the stars.
- v) As Christians, we should set our course in life by keeping the commandments.
 - (1) We should treasure those commandments and steer by those commandments.
 - (2) This doesn't mean that we will never be blown off course or take our eyes from the stars in a time of carelessness.
- vi) A person who has no desire to live by the Word of God and who can sin carelessly and flippantly without any conviction needs to be saved.
- e) We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
 - i) 1 John 2:4 does not teach salvation by works.
 - (1) "He that saith, 'I know Him,'" is in the perfect tense, which speaks of something done in the past.
 - (a) It is done and settled.
 - (2) He "keepeth" commandments because he is now keeping; this is in the present tense.
 - (3) John is saying, "Because I have known Him, I am now keeping the commandments."
 - (a) Verse 4 does not say, "Because I'm keeping the commandment, I know Him."
 - ii) The only way to keep the commandments is to know Him.
 - iii) If we have Jesus in our heart and we have known Him (perfect tense), then we will be keeping His commandments (present tense).
 - f) Do you have a desire in your heart to live by the Word of God?
 - i) If not, then you should re-evaluate whether or not you are saved.
 - ii) If Jesus Christ is not Lord of your life, then you are not on the road to Heaven.
 - g) This is not legalism, it is love.
 - i) We keep the commandments of Jesus because we love Him.
 - ii) John 14:15
 - iii) John 14:21
 - iv) If we don't keep His commandments, then we don't really love Him.
 - (1) If we don't love Him, then we're not saved.
 - (2) We don't keep the commandments in order to be saved.
 - h) A person who is twice-born submits to the Lordship of Christ and keeps His Word.
 - i) Luke 6:46

3) A TRUE BELIEVER SEEKS THE LIFESTYLE OF JESUS CHRIST (1 John 2:5-6)

- a) This passage is not talking about Jesus' Lordship but His lifestyle.
 - i) We are to walk as Jesus walked.
- b) If what we call "being saved" doesn't make us more like Jesus, then we haven't been saved.
 - i) Being saved makes us like Jesus.
- c) 1 John 2:6
 - i) "Even as He," means our life is to be even as His life was.
- d) 1 John 4:17
- e) What is the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus?
 - i) A life of honesty
 - (1) 1 John 1:7



- (a) "To walk in the light" means to be honest.
- (2) 1 John 1:6
- (3) The lifestyle of Jesus is a life of honesty.
 - (a) Honest with God.
 - (b) Honest with self.
 - (c) Honest with others.
- (4) A person who has a life built upon dishonesty is not walking as Jesus walked and is not walking in the light.
 - (a) Someone who is not walking in the light has no right to call himself or herself a child of God.
- ii) A life of purity
 - (1) 1 John 3:3
 - (2) A person who feeds on filth and debauchery and is a lover of pornography should not call himself or herself a child of God.
 - (a) This does not mean that we cannot slip into sin.
 - (b) But if this is your lifestyle, then you're not walking as Jesus walked.
- iii) A life of righteousness
 - (1) 1 John 3:7
 - (2) Righteousness is not merely the abstaining from doing what is wrong.
 - (3) The Lord Jesus went about doing good.
 - (a) Acts 10:38
- f) How can we have the lifestyle of Jesus?
 - i) The key is in 1 John 2:6.
 - (1) We are to abide in Him.
 - ii) John 15:5
 - (1) "To abide" means to have the relationship with Jesus Christ that a branch in a grapevine has to the main stem in that vine.
- g) How do we abide in Jesus?
 - i) A life of reliance upon Jesus
 - (1) The branch (representing us) completely and totally relies upon the vine (Jesus).
 - (2) The branch can do nothing of itself.
 - (3) All that the branch needs is in the vine.
 - (4) The branch clings to the vine, grows out from the vine and receives whatever it needs from the vine.
 - (a) In the summertime when the branch needs moisture, the vine gives moisture.
 - (b) In the spring when it's time to produce the grapes, the branch doesn't worry about how many grapes, what size, what color or how sweet the grapes should be.
 - (i) All the branch does is just abide in the vine.
 - (c) The branch does not produce the grapes; it only bears the grapes.
 - ii) A life of relinquishment upon Jesus.
 - (1) The branch relinquishes everything to the vine.
 - (2) Jesus came to the Earth as a man to live before us as a man, and so He set the example of abiding.



- (a) John 5:19
- (b) Jesus was abiding in the Father, and the life of God was reproduced in the human Jesus here upon this Earth.
- iii) Abiding is a life of absolute dependence and complete relinquishment.
 - (1) The branch has no other side issues.
 - (a) It clings completely to the vine.
 - (b) It rests in the vine.
 - (c) The life of the vine comes into the branch.
- h) If we are going to have the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must abide in Him.
 - i) When we abide in Him and we are to Jesus what Jesus was to the Father, then Jesus will be to us what the Father was to Jesus.
 - ii) 1 John 2:4, 6
- i) Abiding in Jesus is not the same as simply asking ourselves what would Jesus do if He were here.
 - i) First of all, when we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” in any situation, that presumes that we know what Jesus would do.
 - (1) Jesus will often do what we would not think He would do.
 - (2) We cannot put Jesus in a box and run Him through the grid of our own rationalism.
 - ii) It also presumes that if we knew what Jesus would do, we could do it.
 - iii) When we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” if He were here, the fact is that He is here!
 - (1) He is alive in us.
 - (2) We need to let the Jesus in us be Jesus.
 - (a) He is the one who knows what He would do, and He’s the one who can do it.
- j) Living the Christian life is a life of supernatural reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) We walk as He walked because we abide in Him.

4) A TRUE BELIEVER SHOWS THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST (1 John 2:9-10)

- a) We share His love.
- b) This love is both old and new.
 - i) It is old because Jesus said that love is the first and great commandment.
 - (1) Matthew 22:36-38
 - (a) It goes all the way back to the Old Testament.
 - ii) It is new because Jesus gave a new commandment to love one another.
 - (1) John 13:34
 - (2) At the time Jesus gave this new commandment in John 13, He had been washing the disciple’s feet in the upper room.
 - (a) John 13:4-5
 - (b) Peter, a crude and arrogant braggart, was in this room.
 - (c) James and John, who were called “Sons of Thunder” and had hair-trigger tempers, were in this room.
 - (i) Mark 3:17
 - (ii) Luke 9:54



- (d) Simon the Zealot, who knew nothing but hatred for the Romans before He met Jesus, was in that room.
 - (e) Andrew, who was quiet and sensitive, was in that room.
 - (f) Phillip, who was calculating, was in that room.
 - (g) Thomas, who was very cynical, in that room.
 - (h) Jesus loved them all.
- c) Jesus doesn't love us because we're lovely; He just loves us.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) If a person is saved, it will show in his life.
 - i) We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
 - ii) We are not saved by walking as Jesus walked.
 - iii) We are not saved by loving our brother.
 - iv) But if we are saved, we will do these things.
 - (1) They will come out of the life that has met the Lord Jesus.
 - (2) If your religion hasn't changed your life, then you had better change your religion because you don't have the New Testament kind.
- b) How do you know the Lord?
 - i) You know Him by faith.
 - (1) You trust Him as your Lord and Savior by faith.
- c) If you would like to trust the Lord Jesus today, you can do so right now.
- d) Pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Let me tell you this, that when you were Heaven-born, you became Heaven-bound. But when you were Heaven-born and Heaven-bound, God put some indelible marks upon you. These are traits of the twice-born. These are the birthmarks of the believer. And God wants me to tell you that if you don't find these birthmarks, if you do not discover these traits, then you need to ask yourself, have you ever really been born from above, and are you really Heaven-bound? Because you see, it's one thing to talk religion; it's another thing to have it. Is that not true?

As a matter of fact, let's just look here in the second chapter of First John, and look if you will, in verse 4. See how it begins, "He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar." Oh, my. John, you're certainly not very discreet there. I mean, you're a little blunt aren't you, John? He said, "That's right. You say you know Him, and you don't keep His commandments, you're just a liar." And then look again in First John 2 verse 6, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." Look in verse 9, "He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in darkness until now." Do you see how each of these verses begin? "He that saith, He that saith, He that saith." It's one thing to talk the talk; it's another thing to walk the walk, isn't it? "He that saith." Now, see, a lot of us talk a good religion, but everything we say is not necessarily so.

I heard of a psychiatrist who was in his office, and the nurse came back there and said, "Doctor, there's a man out here in the office who wants to see you. He says he's invisible." And the psychiatrist said to the nurse, "Go tell him we can't see him." Not everything that people say is true, and certainly when it comes to this matter of being saved. But what are some traits of the twice-born? Each of these phrases, "He that saith," introduces a trait of the twice-born. It introduces a birthmark of the believer. So I want us to look at these traits right here and see, first of all, what a true believer is.

Number one: a true believer, are you listening, **a true believer submits to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.** Look in First John 2 verses 3 and 4, "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." Now nobody can be saved without receiving Christ as Lord. In Acts 16:31, the Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The Bible says in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." And so you don't receive Christ as Savior and later make Him Lord. You receive Him as Lord and Savior all at the same time. And so, if you say that, "Christ is your Lord," and yet you don't keep His Word, well that's a contradiction. Jesus Christ Himself said in Luke 6:46, "Why call you Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things that I say?" The Lord means Master. And He has every right to give His commandments.

So, let me ask you a question: have you been born again? You say, "Yes, I have." Are you keeping His commandments? Well, you say, "No, I don't think I'm keeping His commandments." Then John says, not Adrian, but John says, "You are a liar." "He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar." "Are you trying to tell me, Adrian, that I have to be perfect in order to go to Heaven?" No. If it demands perfection, nobody is going, because we don't have perfection. What does this mean when it says, "He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar?" It's all wrapped up in that word: keep.



Now what does that word keep mean? Well, first of all, it means to guard, as you would guard a treasure. You would say to somebody, you would give them something and you would say, "Keep this for me." And so, when you treasure God's commandments, the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are precious to you, when you guard His commandments, you take and set value in those commandments. Then you can say, "Perhaps, I know the Lord," or, "Yes, indeed, I do know the Lord." Also, the word keep is a word that was used by sailors in ancient times when they didn't have global positioning satellites as we have. They would steer by the stars. And a sailor at nighttime would look up to the stars and he would steer by those stars, and they called that keeping the stars. That is, he would set his course by keeping the stars.

Now you, as a Christian, set your course in life by keeping the commandments. You treasure those commandments, and you steer by those commandments. That doesn't mean that you could never get blown off course. That doesn't mean in a time of carelessness you may take your eyes from the stars. But I'm here to tell you this, folks, that if you have no desire to live by the Word of God, if you can sin carelessly, flippantly, without any compunction, without any conviction, and you just go your merry way and let God's commandments go the other way, you need to get saved. I didn't say that; the apostle John said that. "He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is," what? "A liar."

Now, are you steering by God's stars? Do you treasure God's Word? Are you keeping God's commandments? Now, why do we do this? Listen very carefully. We are not saved by keeping the commandments. He's not teaching here salvation by works at all. Look if you will in First John 2 verse 4. Look at it, "He that saith, 'I know Him.'" Now, that, friend, is in the perfect tense. Now you say, "Oh, Adrian, I'm so blessed." No. All right, here's what it says. It speaks of something that is done in the past; perfect tense. "He that saith, 'I have known Him,'" "I know Him," that's in the past tense. It is something that is done and settled. And then, because, "He keepeth commandments because he is now keeping," John 14:21, that is present tense. Now what is he talking about? He is saying, "Because I have known Him, I am now keeping the commandments." It doesn't say, "Because I'm keeping the commandments, I know Him." Don't get it backward. The only way that you can keep the commandments is to know Him. But if you know Him, if you have Him in your heart, if you have known Him, perfect tense, you will be keeping His commandments, present tense. You're going to be steering by God's stars. You're going to be treasuring God's Word.

Now ask yourself this question, and ask it honestly, ask it sincerely: do you have in your heart right now a desire to live by the Word of God? If not, put a big question mark over that thing you call salvation. "He that saith, 'I know him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar." That's what John says.

And so, what's the first trait of the twice-born? It is, folks, right here. A true believer submits to the Lordship of Christ. He has His Word. He says, "This is what I want you to do." And if Jesus Christ is not Lord of your life then you're not on the road to Heaven. You see, this is not legalism; this is love. Do you know why I keep the commandments of Jesus? Because I love Him. Let me give you some verses. Jesus said in John chapter 14 verse 15, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." He says in John 14 verse 21, "He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me." You see, if you don't keep His commandments, you don't really love Him; and if you don't love Him, you're not saved. I don't keep the commandments in order to be saved. When our children were little, Joyce and I wouldn't wake up in the morning, say, "Well, what time is?" "It's 8 o'clock." "Well, time for breakfast. We'd better get the kids now. We better feed them, because, Joyce, you know, if we don't feed the kids, they're going to come and arrest us for child abuse, so we have to feed the kids." No, that's not why we fed them, not



because the law says. The law does say that you can't abuse your children. But that's not why we feed our children. We feed them because we love them. We keep God's commandments because we love them. Jesus says, "If a man love Me, he will keep My Word."

Now let me give you a second trait of the twice-born. First of all, it is a person who is twice-born submits to the Lordship of Christ. He keeps His Word. Jesus said in Luke chapter 6 and verse 46, "Why call ye Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things that I say?" Number two: not only does a true believer submit to the Lordship of Jesus, but **a true believer seeks the lifestyle of Jesus**. Now look in First John 2 verse 5 and 6, look at it, "But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we're in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." Now, here he's not talking about His Lordship, but His lifestyle. You see, you submit to His Lordship, and you seek His lifestyle. You are to walk as Jesus walked.

Now folks, if being saved doesn't make you like Jesus, then, I mean, if what you call being saved doesn't make you like Jesus, you haven't been saved. Being saved makes you like Jesus. It makes you to walk as Jesus walked. Look in First John 2 verse 6. The key is, "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He." Now underscore that phrase, "even as He." That is, my life is to be even as His life was. First John 4 verse 17, you might turn to it and look at it. The last part of that verse says, "As He is, so are we in this world." Even as He. "As He is, so are we in this world."

Now what was the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ like? How am I going to walk as Jesus walked? Well, **His lifestyle was a life of honesty**. Go back to First John 1 verse 7, and look at it. You going to pick up this phrase, "Even as He." "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." Well, what does it mean to walk in the light? It means to be honest. Go back to chapter 1 verse 6, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." So, what is the lifestyle of Jesus? It's a life of honesty. I'm honest with God. I'm honest with myself. I'm honest with you. If you have a life that is built on dishonesty, you're not walking as Jesus walked, and you're not walking in the light. And if you're not walking in the light, you have no right to call yourself a child of God.

But not only a life of honesty, but **a life of purity**. Look in First John chapter 3 verse 3, "Every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." Now, don't miss the phrase. The phrase I'm working on in all of these is, "Even as He," "Even as He," "as He is, so are we." First John 4:17. We ought to walk even as He walked, as He did this. My life is to have the lifestyle of Jesus. His lifestyle was a lifestyle of honesty. His lifestyle is a lifestyle of purity. "Every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." Now if you are feeding on filth, if you're a lover of pornography, if your heart is full of filth and dirt and debauchery, don't call yourself a child of God. You can't live that way and be saved, you just can't do it. You need to get saved if this is the way you are. Now I'm not saying that you cannot slip into sin. We'll deal with that later on in this series of messages. But if this is your lifestyle, if this is the way you live, you're not walking as Jesus walked.

Can you imagine Jesus watching some of the things that people watch today when they tune in on the television and Hell's Box Office; and see all this filth that comes in there? And they feed and feast on that and let their little kids, you know what I feel like telling those folks? "Hey, turn that thing off and get saved." Get saved. I mean, why are you watching that filth? Would you sit there if Jesus were there with you and watch it? I mean, if Jesus were sitting in your living room?

Listen, Jesus' life was a life of honesty. He walked in the light. Jesus' life: a life of purity. The Bible says, "Even as He is pure." And His life was **a life of righteousness**. Look if you will in First John 3 verse 7,



“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He,” here it is again, “even as He is righteous.” You see, Jesus is honest. Jesus is pure. Jesus is righteous. And what is righteousness? Righteousness is not merely the abstaining from doing what it wrong. It is said of the Lord Jesus Christ that He went about doing good.

Now, you say, “Well, Pastor, how can I have the lifestyle of Jesus? When I submit to the Lordship of Jesus, how do I seek the lifestyle of Jesus?” Well, the key is in verse 6. And there in First John 2 verse 6, look at it, He mentions abiding. Do you see it? “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” Jesus was a master teacher. Now, most of us have a little fuzziness when it comes to abiding. We say, “Well Pastor, what does it mean to abide?” Well, one thing about Jesus is this. He was so easy to understand if you listen to Him. He took those difficult phrases and terms and He made them simple. And He says in John chapter 15, we’re in First John now, but in the Gospel of John and chapter 15 verse 5, Jesus tells us what abiding is. He says it’s like a vine and a branch. He says, “I am the vine, you’re the branches. He that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit. For without Me you can do nothing.” So now we understand what it means to abide. It’s to have the relationship to Jesus Christ that a branch and a grapevine has to the main stem in the grapevine. “I am the vine,” Jesus said, “ye are the branches.”

And so, how do I, if I’m going to walk and live the lifestyle of Jesus, how do I abide in Jesus? Well, just imagine yourself now as the branch and Jesus is the vine. First of all, the life of a branch is **a life of full reliance**. That branch completely, totally relies on the vine. The branch can do nothing of itself. All that the branch needs is in the vine. And so the branch clings to the vine, grows out from the vine, and it receives whatever it needs. In the summertime, if it needs moisture the vine gives moisture. In the fall, when it’s time for the grapes, or in the spring, when it’s time to begin to produce the grapes the little branch doesn’t worry about how many grapes, what size, what color, how sweet. That’s none of the branch’s business. All the branch does is just abide in the vine. You see, the branch does not produce the grapes; the branch only bears the grapes. And all that the branch does, it just simply relinquishes everything to the vine. It is a life of reliance. It is **a life of relinquishment**. It just draws from the vine.

People could not understand the life of Jesus. They said to Jesus, “How do You do these things? How do You do these works?” Now Jesus came here as a man to live before us as men, and so He set the example of abiding. And Jesus said, “I’m not doing this. The Father does it. What the Father says, I say. What I see the Father do, I do.” Jesus is abiding in the Father, and you’re seeing the life of God reproduced in the human Jesus here upon this Earth. Now what is abiding? It is a life of absolute dependence, complete relinquishment. A branch has no other side issues. It clings completely to the vine. It rests in the vine, and the life of the vine comes into the branch.

Now, folks, if you’re going to have a lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ, you’re going to have to abide in Him. And when you abide in Him, when you are to Jesus what Jesus was to the Father, Jesus will be to you what the Father was to Jesus. You just simply abide in Him. Now, folks, are you listening? Listen to me now. “He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar.” There is, friend, a submission to the Lordship of Christ. And there is a seeking of the lifestyle of Christ. “He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and doesn’t walk, ought also himself to walk, as Jesus walked.”

Now, there was a man who wrote a novel called; “In His Steps.” And the theme of that novel is a lot of people in a particular town got the idea that they would ask themselves this question before they took any course of action: “What would Jesus do?” And there’s been a revival of that book, and you see a lot of kids and adults wearing a little bracelet, W.W.J.D. Have you seen that little bracelet? Means, “What



Would Jesus Do?" And so they ask themselves in any situation what would Jesus do, and I think that is wonderful. But let me just put a little caveat here and help you a little bit when we're talking about the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ. Number one: when you ask yourself what would Jesus do in any situation that assumes you know what Jesus would do. You know, Jesus will surprise you. As a matter of fact, Jesus will often do what you would not think He would do. You can't put Jesus in a box and just run Him through the grid of your own rationalism. So, when you ask: what would Jesus do? That presumes that you know what He would do, and you may not.

Number two: that also presumes that if you knew what Jesus would do, you could do it. Do you think you could? Just all you have to do is know what Jesus would do. Now I can come to the plate, and I can take a bat in my hand and see that baseball coming at me at a hundred miles an hour, and I ask myself, "What would Mark McGwire do?" So, what's that got to do with it? I mean, even if I knew what Mark McGwire would do, do you think I could do it? No!

Now, here's the third thing. Look. We ask ourselves what would Jesus do if He were here, He is here. He is alive in us. And we need to let the Jesus in us be Jesus. He's the one who knows what He would do, and He's the one who can do it. And living the Christian life is a life of supernatural reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ. There's only one person who has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus. And if He lives it in your house, it'll be Him in you still living it. You see, you walk as He walked because you abide in Him, in verse 6.

Now, here's the third mark of the believer. Here's the third birthmark. Are you following me? The first one is you submit to His Lordship. The second is you seek His lifestyle. The third is **you show His love**, you show His love. Look if you will now, again in First John 2 verses 9 and 10, "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." Now, that's the third birthmark of the believer. You, you just simply share His love.

Now, notice if you will, he says this love is both new and old. Well, why is it both new and old? Well, it's old because Jesus said in Matthew 22:36, "Love is the first and the first and the great commandment." So it goes all the way back to the Old Testament. But why is it new? Well, I'll tell you why it's new. Because Jesus says over there in John chapter 13 and verse 34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you."

And do you know when He said that in John 13, you know what He'd been doing? He'd been washing His disciples' feet. They'd come into the Upper Room, the disciples were sitting at the table, and Jesus took off His garments, put a towel around Him, took the sandals off those old, smelly feet of those disciples, and Jesus washed His disciples' feet. And then Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you. As I have loved you, you are to love one another." Now, folks, do you know who's in that room? Do you think they were lovely? Do you think old big-mouth Peter was lovely? About the only time Peter, he just opened his mouth to change feet. Peter was a braggart, crude, arrogant. Who else was in that room? James and John. You know what they were called? Sons of thunder. They had a hair-trigger temper. They got in Samaria and they said, "Lord, let's nuke 'em, these Samaritans, a little Heavenly napalm will do them good. Let's call down fire from Heaven." That's James and John. Who else was in that room? Simon the Zealot. This guy knew nothing but hatred for the Romans before Jesus Christ got hold of him. Who was in that room? Andrew was in that room; Andrew, who was quiet and sensitive. Who was in that room there? Well, Phillip was in there. He was calculating. Who was in that room? Cynical Thomas was in that room. And Jesus loved them.



Let me tell you something, folks. He doesn't love us because we're lovely; He just loves us. And look around. You think we're all so loveable? You're sitting between two people. You know, they say only one out of every three people is beautiful or handsome. Look on either side. If it's not them, it's you. Folks, listen, how do I know that I know Him? If I say that I love Him, know Him, and don't have love, don't love my brother, if I hate my brother, He says, "I'm a liar." The truth is not in us. What are the birthmarks of the believer? We submit to His Lordship. We seek His lifestyle. We share His love. That's it. That's it. Now, if these things are not there, don't call yourself a Christian.

I went to Israel and I went to the Holocaust Museum. My heart broke. I'd been there before, but never was I as deeply moved as I see the atrocities that were committed upon the Jewish people. Now if there's a Jewish friend watching this program right now, I want to tell you, in the name of Jesus, I am so sorry for what has happened. I wanted to take every Jew in the world and put my arm around them and just say, "I am so sorry. I am ashamed." Some of those who were doing that came from a quote "Christian" nation. That was not Jesus. That was somebody saying, "I know Him," but the apostle John says, "They are in darkness and lie." And never hold that against Jesus Christ. It wasn't Jesus. It was some liar who said, "I know Him."

Listen, folks. I am telling you the truth. You listen to me. You listen to me. Friend, if a person is saved, it's going to show in his life. You're not saved by keeping the commandments, you're not saved by walking as Jesus walked, you're not saved by loving your brother; but if you are saved, you will do these things. They come out of your life that has met the Lord Jesus. And if your religion hasn't changed your life, you better change your religion, because you don't have the New Testament kind. "If any man's in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature."

Let's bow together in prayer. Lord God, I pray that You'll help us to make our walk match our talk, and, Lord, that we might not say one thing and do another. Now, while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, how do you know the Lord? Well, you know Him by faith. You trust Him as your Lord and Savior by faith. And if you'd like to trust Him today, you can do it right now. If you'll just bow your heads in prayer and pray a prayer like this, sincerely, out of your heart, "Dear God, I know that You love me." And, friend, He does love you. "Dear God, I know that You love me." Pray that, "I know that You love me. God, I know that You want to save me." Friend, He does want to save you. "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." He longs for you to be saved. There's no one here so good he doesn't need to be saved, and no one here so bad he cannot be saved. "Lord, I know You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me." And, friend, He did die to save you. Say that, "Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, Jesus." Pray it from your heart. "I do trust You right now, this moment, with all of my heart. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me, Lord Jesus." Pray that and mean it. "Save me, Lord Jesus." Then pray this, "Thank You for doing it. I receive it by faith. I don't look for a sign. I don't ask for a feeling. I stand on Your Word. Thank You for saving me. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be. In Your holy name, Amen."



2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38183 | (901) 382-7900