

### What are the Marks of a Christian?

**Intro:** There's an old saying that if it looks like a duck and it walks like a duck and it sounds like a duck, then it must be a duck. How about this: S/he wears a cross; gives money to noble causes; and claims to be a Christian, then are they a Christian? That depends...on how being a Christian is defined. It wasn't so long ago that many people simply assumed that if you were an American, then you were a Christian - after all, wasn't America a "Christian nation"? Billy Graham once commented that he believed less than 10% of those going to church were actually "Christians." This week, you're going to get the opportunity to wrestle with this question. **Warning:** It is not your job or my job to decide who's in and who's out of the Kingdom of God. On the other hand, Christianity in North America has a bad reputation mostly because of those who claim to be "Christian" but behave like the devil (I was going to say "like a pagan," but there are a lot of pagans who behave more Christ-like than many "Christians"). So, what does a Christian "act like"? What are the marks? We're going to take a look and decide for ourselves - and maybe do some self-reflection on our own faith walk.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

**What do these passages teach about what it takes to be a Christian?**

John 3:16-18; John 12:44-50; Romans 10:8-10

**What do these passages teach about what it takes to be a Christian - and how are they different from the previous passages?**

Matthew 25:31-46; 1 John 3:6-10, 16-18; Luke 6:40-46

**What do these passages teach about the marks of a Christian?**

Galatians 5:19-26; Mark 16:15-18

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe are the marks of a Christian. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

**“What are the marks of a Christian?”**

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.