

Pastor's Pen

Marks Of A Disciple

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." Luke 9:23

Over the next six weeks, I will share six marks of a disciple of Christ.

Love For God

The first mark of a disciple of Christ is their Love of God. When Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees gathered and decided to test Jesus. One asked, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " ***'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*** **38 *This is the great and foremost commandment*** ' (Matt. 26:36-38)." As followers of Christ, we will love God.

A Christian must have a genuine love for God. John MacArthur wrote, "Genuine Love of the Lord is intelligent, feeling, willing, and serving. It involves thought, sensitivity, intent, and even action where possible and appropriate. God has never sought either empty words or empty ritual." We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19), and because of that love, we can love Him. Someone who has not been born again cannot, will not love God. We were enemies of God incapable of loving Him (Rom.5:10, Col.1:21), but everything changes when an individual comes to saving faith. Once we hated God, we love Him now.

Before Christ, man hates God. John H. Gerstner said it well, "Man as sinner hates God, hates man, and hates himself. He would kill God if he could. He does kill his fellow man when he can. [And] he commits spiritual suicide every day of his life." However, when Jesus becomes Lord and Savior in someone's life, they become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). Every believer has been freed from the slave block of sin and now is a slave of righteousness (Rom. 6:20-22). Christians will love God because He is the author of their salvation. If someone claims to be a disciple of Jesus but does not love Him, he is a liar and an enemy of God, not a disciple.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

Are we Christians-or are we worldlings? (Horatius Bonar, "Self-Denial Christianity")

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion!" Amos 6:1

What do we say to . . . our self-indulgence, our spiritual sloth, our love of ease, our avoidance of hardship, our luxury, our pampering of the body, our costly feasts, our silken couches, our brilliant furniture, our gay attire, our expensive jewelry, our idle mirth, our voluptuous music, our jovial tables, loaded with every variety of rich viands? Are we Christians-or are we worldlings? Where is the self-denial of the New Testament days?

Where is the separation from a self-pleasing luxurious world? Where is the cross, the true badge of discipleship, to be seen-except in useless religious ornaments for the body, or worse than useless decorations for the sanctuary?

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion!" Is not this the description of multitudes who name the name of Christ? They may not be "living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry." But even where these are absent, there is 'high living'-luxury of the table or the wardrobe-in conformity to this present evil world. "At ease in Zion!" Yes! there is the shrinking . . . from hard service; from spending and being spent; from toil and burden-bearing and conflict; from self-sacrifice and noble service; for the Master's sake.

There is conformity to the world, instead of conformity to Christ! There is a laying down of the cross, instead of a taking up of the cross. Or there is a lining of the cross with velvet, lest it should gall our shoulders as we carry it! Or there is an adorning of the cross, that it may suite the taste and the manners of our refined and intellectual age. Anything but the bare, rugged and simple cross! We think that we can make the strait gate wider, and the narrow way broader-so as to be able to walk more comfortably to the heavenly kingdom. We try to prove that modern enlightenment has so refined 'the world and its pleasures', that we may safely drink the poisoned cup, and give ourselves up to the inebriation of the siren song.

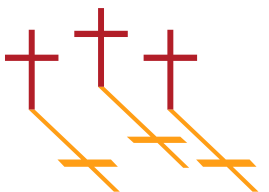
"At ease in Zion!" Even when the walls of our city are besieged, and the citadel is being stormed! Instead of grasping our weapons, we lie down upon our couches! Instead of the armor, we put on the silken robe! We are cowards, when we should be brave! We are faint-hearted, when we should be bold! We are lukewarm, when we should be fervent! We are cold, when we should be full of zeal! We compromise and shuffle and make excuses-when we should lift up our voice like a trumpet! We pare down truth, or palliate error, or extenuate sin-in order to placate the world, or suit the spirit of the age, or 'unify' the Church. Learn self-denying Christianity. Not the form or name, but the living thing. Let us renounce the lazy, luxurious, self-pleasing, fashionable religion of the present day!

A self-indulgent religion has nothing in common with the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ; or with that cross of ours which He has commanded us to take up and carry after Him-renouncing ease and denying self. Our time, our abilities, our money, our strength- are all to be laid upon the altar.

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion!" Amos 6:1

Quote of the Week

"If persecution should arise, you should be willing to part with all that you possess—with your liberty, with your life itself, for Christ—or you cannot be his disciple."
- Charles Spurgeon



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 05/26/2024

General Offering	11,354.00
Building Fund	1,507.75
Uganda Missions	213.00
Benevolence	25.00

Total.....\$13,099.75
Attendance 162

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

June 02, 2024

Welcome