

Marks of a Christian – Part 1

Beginning with verse 9 of Romans 12, Paul urges things that are not difficult to understand, but may be difficult for some to do. You may choose to rate yourself on these things.

- **Satisfactory – Needs Improvement – Unsatisfactory**

- a. **9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.**

- a. love (ἀγάπη *agapē*) – the active love of God for his Son and his people, and the active love his people are to have for God, each other, and even enemies;
 - i. Love is the first mark of a Christian and is fundamental to all of the ones which follow.
- b. genuine (ἀνυπόκριτος *anypokritos*) – sincere, genuine, without hypocrisy; of good character, lacking pretense and prideful show
 - i. One may pretend to love in order to gain something for themselves, but it is not really love. It is not genuine.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 13:4-7
 - 1. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- c. Abhor (ἀποστυγοῦντες *apostygountes*) - detest, loathe, “shudder from” or “shrink back from”.
 - i. Some things are so utterly horrible that they bring strong emotions, especially when the victim is innocent, as a child. What is evil? Galatians 5:19-21 lists 17 things that are works of the flesh, and, without repentance, will bring exclusion from inheritance of the kingdom of God.
 - ii. This is from our God who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4).
 - iii. The second mark of the Christian is to completely avoid evil.

- d. cling (κολλώμενοι *kollōmenoi*) – hold fast, stick to.
 - i. Literally, “stick like glue” to things that are good.
 - ii. If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.
 - iii. The preceding words from Colossians 3:1-2 ring very true for one who abhors evil.
 - iv. This is the third mark of the Christian.

Hebrews 13:16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.