

Marks of a True Christian – Part 2

Romans 12:10-11

Beginning with verse 9, Paul urges things that are easily understood but sometimes difficult to do. More often than not these things concern our relationship to others.

Rate Yourself:

Satisfactory – Needs Improvement – Unsatisfactory

a. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- a. Love (φιλόστοργοι *philostorgoi*) - devoted, loving dearly, tenderly affectionate.
 - i. This is the only usage in the N.T., and you may recognize a combination of two Greek words for love: *phileo* – brotherly love, and *storge* – family love. It is or should be natural, as a parent to a child, or as an animal to its offspring.
- b. brotherly affection (φιλαδελφία *philadelphia*) – brotherly love.
- c. outdo one another (προηγούμενοι *proēgoumenoi*) - to go before, precede, to give precedence to, to prefer.
- d. Take the lead in showing honor.
- e. honor (τιμῆ *timē*) - honor, value, respect; nobility, specialness.

b. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

- a. slothful (ὀκνηροί *oknēroi*) - lazy, idle, not active, lagging, lacking.



- i.
- ii. The slowest-moving mammal in the world.

- iii. They spend most of their time hanging from tree limbs. On the ground, their legs are almost useless.
- iv. Three English translations use the word slothful, relying upon the word to convey the image of a sloth moving slowly on the ground.
- v. Other English translations use the literal lacking or lagging.
- vi. The idea is to be busy, be diligent, in serving the Lord.
- b. zeal (σπουδῆ *spoudē*) - earnestness, earnest application, diligence, enthusiasm.
 - i. In verse 8, the same word was used to describe the gift of leading. Now it applies to all Christians.
- c. fervent (ζέοντες *zeontes*) - literally: to boil, to be hot, metaphorically: to be fervent, ardent, zealous
- d. spirit (πνεύματι *pneumatī*) –
 - i. The internal attitude or mental disposition of man is meant, not the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Be seen as one who is boiling over in spirit.
- e. serve (δουλεύοντες *douleuontes*) –
 - i. δοῦλος (bond-servant) is one who has been purchased to serve.
 - ii. In the context of 12:11, that service will not be only by obligation, but willingly and diligently and fervently.