

SIGNS OF A GENUINE CHRISTIAN

1 John 2:3-6

Introduction: In our country there are thousands of Southern Baptist Churches and among those thousands of Churches are hundreds of thousands of church members with each one calling him/herself a Christian. If asked, each one would say that he/she will go to heaven. Comparing the total number of "Christians" to the number of people being led to the Lord each year the results show that many thousands of "Christians" are not witnessing and leading people to the Lord. Where are all the witnesses for the Lord? What would Jesus say about all these who are not witnessing and never have?

I. A GENUINE CHRISTIAN WILL KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST

1. Genuine Christians strive to keep the 10 commandments God gave. (*Exodus 20:3-17*)
2. Genuine Christians will also strive to keep the commandments Christ gave:
 - Do not stay angry with one's brother. *Matthew 3:21-23*
 - Do not lust after a woman. *Matthew 5:27-28*
 - Divorce only when adultery has been committed. *Matthew 3:31-32*
 - Love your enemies. *Matthew 3:43-44*
 - Don't brag about how much you gave at Church. *Matthew 6:1-2*
 - Don't use vain, repetitious words in your prayers. *Matthew 6:5-7*
 - Don't depend on your material, earthly goods. *Matthew 6:19-21*
 - One cannot serve two masters equally. *Matthew 6:24*
 - Do not judge anybody. *Matthew 7:1-2*
 - *"Render to Caesar the thing that is his and to God the things that are God's."*
 - *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind."*
 - *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*
 - Jesus had other commandments than these.

II. MANY SAY THEY ARE "CHRISTIANS" BUT DO NOT EVEN TRY TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST

1. Just look at our own Southern Baptist Convention:
 - There are hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptist Church members.
 - The average Sunday School attendance is 25% of the total Church membership.
 - The average percent of tithers in any Southern Baptist Church is 20%. 80% don't.
 - Joining a Church does not any more make one a Christian than going into a garage make one a car or truck.
 - Jesus said that there would be many who said that they were "Christians" but that He didn't know who they were. For they were not genuine Christians.
 - Thousands of church members are not even trying to keep the Christ's commandments.

2. There are Church members who have divorced and remarried on non-biblical grounds.
 - Divorces are granted to day for no real reasons at all.
 - It was reported that one man divorced his wife because he worked for a car dealership and his wife bought a new car from another dealership.
 - Jesus said the only grounds for divorce was adultery.
3. What about all the thousands who call themselves Christians and violate the commandment about keeping the Sabbath? (Sunday for the Christian). What about YOU?
4. There are those who call themselves Christians who do not tithe. They make payments in order to have this or that but they will not and never have given to God what is His.
5. What about being a Christian and passing judgment on others?
6. Lots of people say they are Christians but their actions say otherwise.
7. Jesus said that not everyone who calls Him "Lord, Lord," will enter into the kingdom of heaven.

III. THOSE WHO TRULY KNOW CHRIST WILL BE TRYING TO KEEP HIS LAWS AND TO LIVE A LIFE LIKE CHRIST'S

1. They will be humble.
2. They will be kind.
3. They will be faithful.
4. They will be obedient to their parents and teach their children the ways of the Lord.
5. They will be obedient to God.
6. They will be compassionate.
7. They will be self-denying.
8. They will be long-suffering.
9. Take a look at yourself. Have you been living as Jesus did? Have you been trying?

CONCLUSION:

1. Have you been bearing fruit for Christ?
2. Can you say, "I know Christ?"
3. If you have failed to live as Christ lived, you can be forgiven.
4. Are you one of those who has never tithed? Why not?
5. Have you never witnessed for the Lord? If not why?
6. A genuine Christian is faithful to keep the commandments of God and of Christ.
7. Would you call yourself a "genuine, real" Christian?
8. Have you never trusted in the Christian's Lord, Jesus Christ? Do so right now.