

**Subject: *Marks of a Committed Christian***

**Scripture: *John 21:15-25***

Many people call themselves Christians, but some of them don't seem to know what it means to be a Christian. A true Christian not only talks the talk, but he walks the walk. A true Christian is one who is committed to Christ.

### **1. The SUPREME LOVE of a committed Christian (vs. 15-17)**

Supreme love for God has always been the mark of God's people, so it is no surprise that Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?"

**Deuteronomy 6:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: <sup>5</sup> And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

**Matthew 22:36-38** <sup>36</sup> *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? <sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and great commandment.*

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

The setting for these questions is important. Jesus reminds Peter of His failure, but His intention is to restore Peter and prepare Him for greater service.

The fire reminded Peter of the time when he denied the Lord. Jesus called him by the name "Simon" rather than Peter. Jesus had given him the nickname Peter when he declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:13-18). Jesus asked Peter the question three times because he had denied Him three times.

There are two different words for love in this conversation. There is the word for divine love and the word for loyal friendship. In all three exchanges between Jesus and Peter, the Lord says, "Feed my sheep." The proof of your love is whether you obey Me.

**John 14:15** *If ye love me, keep my commandments. Love and labor go together. Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, said: "The most important requirement for a missionary is not love for souls, but love for Christ."*

### **2. The SACRIFICIAL LIFE of a committed Christian (vs. 18-19)**

Jesus began verse 18 with the words "verily, verily." This was something important and He wanted Peter to pay attention. These were words of warning about how Peter would die for his faith. Jesus told all would-be followers what to expect. This was His invitation:

**Matthew 16:24** *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

The Christian life is an invitation to die to self and our old way of life.

**Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

**Philippians 1:20** *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

**Philippians 1:29** *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.*

### **3. The SINGLE FOCUS of a committed Christian (vs. 20-22)**

In the beginning of His ministry Jesus called the disciples by saying, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Now at the end of His ministry He says the same thing, “Follow me.” Peter is like us. He asked about John and what he would do. Jesus said, “That’s none of your concern. Follow me.” A committed Christian must focus on one thing. Follow Jesus no matter what others do or don’t do.

How could Peter and the other disciples follow Jesus after He went back to heaven? How can we follow Jesus since He is in heaven? They would follow His teachings and His example, and we follow Jesus by reading and obeying the Bible, the record of His teaching and example, and the disciples’ teaching and example.

**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

**1 John 2:6** *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

We can’t follow Christ if we don’t know what He taught by word and example.

We can’t follow Christ if we don’t know what the apostles taught.

If we are going to be a committed Christian we must have a single focus and that it to follow Christ. And if we are going to follow Christ we must know the Scripture and practice it.

Jesus gave the disciples an assignment, **John 20:21** *... as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* Jesus came to earth to represent the Father and do His will, and that took commitment. Christians are to represent Christ and do His will, and that takes commitment. It takes a supreme love for Christ, a sacrificial life for Christ, and a single focus of following Christ.