

MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN – SERVE THE LORD

Romans 12:11 “. . . serve the Lord . . .”

The next mark of a Christian found in Romans 12 is a Christian serves the LORD. As a Christian you not only confess your faith in Jesus Christ, but you give up your self-centered life. Your life focuses on saying and doing all you do in service to Jesus. “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing . . . You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

You live your Christian life differently than a non-Christian. St. Paul, in Galatians 2:20 writes what makes you different, “I have been crucified with Christ.” And, then Paul continues with what the result is of your being crucified with Christ, “Then it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” What you focus upon in your life is summarized in these words from Romans 14:8 “For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

Living your Christian life means your life receives direction and guidance from Jesus. Your life centers on serving Him and doing His will. After all, Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Jesus illustrated this saying, “You cannot serve God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)

The very first Disciples of Jesus illustrate what “serving the LORD” looks like, “Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.” (Mark 1:16-18)

As you serve Jesus, your LORD, your Good Shepherd, He promises He will “lead you to green pastures . . . quiet waters . . . into paths of righteousness.” (Psalm 23:1-3.) When following Him becomes challenging and difficult, He promises “Even though I (you) walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I (you) will fear no evil, for you (Jesus) are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

Prayer: O LORD Jesus Christ, you humbled Yourself, became a servant, washed the feet of the Disciples and gave Your life for me on the Cross. Send Your Spirit into my heart to move me to have a servant's heart also. In Your Holy name. Amen.

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
That our whole life is offered to Your will.

We give our minds to understand Your ways;
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;
Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze—
Thus for Your glory all our pow'rs combine.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.
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