

EVIDENCES OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN



CHAPTER 1

A True Christian will not walk in darkness.

1:6-7 *If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

A True Christian will recognize that he is a sinner.

1:8-9 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

CHAPTER 2

A True Christian will keep God's commandments.

2:3-6 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

A True Christian will love others – and specifically other Christians.

2:9-11 *He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.*

A True Christian is an overcomer of the wicked one.

2:13-14 *I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have **overcome the wicked one**. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have **overcome the wicked one**.*

A True Christian will not be infatuated by the world.

2:15-16 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

A True Christian will not leave the faith.

2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

A True Christian will believe that Jesus is the Christ.

2:22-23 *Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

A True Christian will persevere in their faith.

2:24-25 *Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*

A True Christian will grow in holiness and practice righteousness.

2:29 *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

CHAPTER 3

A True Christian will be a stranger to this world.

3:1 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

A True Christian has an assurance that their faith will become sight.

3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

A True Christian will strive to live a “pure life.”

3:3 *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

A True Christian will not and cannot live habitually in sin.

3:4-10 *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*

A True Christian will love his brother (repeated truth).

3:10 *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, **neither he that loveth not his brother.***

3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

3:16-19 *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.*

A True Christian will have an active prayer life.

3:22-23 *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

A True Christian will live in obedience to God.

3:24 *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

CHAPTER 4

A True Christian will confess that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh.

4:1-3 *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

A True Christian is one who overcomes, not someone who lives in defeat.

4:4-6 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

A True Christian will love others (repeated truth).

4:7-12 *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

A True Christian will understand the saving purposes of Christ.

4:14-15 *And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*

A True Christian will love God.

4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

A True Christian will not hate his brother.

4:20-21 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.*

CHAPTER 5

A True Christian will believe that Jesus is the Christ (repeated truth).

5:1 *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him*

A True Christian will love God and keep his commandments (repeated truth).

5:2-3 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

A True Christian will not be defeated by the sinful influences of the world (repeated truth).

5:4-5 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

A True Christian will believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; the ONLY HOPE of eternal life.

5:10-13 *He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

A True Christian will commune with God (repeated truth).

5:14-15 *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*

A True Christian CANNOT live a habitual lifestyle of sin (repeated truth).

5:18 *We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

A True Christian will have a spiritual understanding of and affection for Jesus Christ.

5:20 *And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

OUTLINED SUMMARY

The Characteristics of a Believer

1. A True Christian will love God (5:3).
2. A True Christian will keep God's commandments (2:3) (2:4) (2:5) (3:24) (5:3).
3. A True Christian will love others (2:10) (3:14) (3:16) (3:18-19) (4:7) (4:12) (4:21).
4. A True Christian will not be infatuated with the world (2:15).
5. A True Christian will grow in holiness (2:29) (3:3) (3:7) (3:10).
6. A True Christian will not live in habitual sin (3:6) (5:18).
7. A True Christian believes that Christ is our only hope of salvation (3:23) (4:1) (4:15) (5:1) (5:5) (5:10) (5:20).
8. A True Christian hears God's teachings (4:6).
9. A True Christian overcomes the world (5:4).
10. A True Christian has spiritual life (5:12).
11. A True Christian knows that he belongs to God (5:13).
12. A True Christian prays and sees prayers answered (5:14-15).

The Characteristics of an Unbeliever

1. The unbeliever does not love others (2:9) (2:11) (3:10) (3:14-15) (3:17) (4:8) (4:20).
2. The unbeliever loves the world (2:15) and is overcome by the world (5:4).
3. The unbeliever lives habitually in sin (3:6) (3:8) (3:9) (3:10).
4. The unbeliever does not believe on Christ (4:3) (5:10).
5. The unbeliever does not have spiritual life (5:12).
6. The unbeliever does not have the assurance of knowing God (5:13).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The reality of our faith does not rest in what we say,
but how we relate to God and His Word.

The popular teaching of "Carnal Christianity" is not supported by Scripture.

We ought to test ourselves and others NOT BY ONE SINGULAR
CHARACTERISTIC of salvation, but by all the characteristics of salvation.