



The Mar Thoma Church
Diocese of North America & Europe
Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

MARKS OF TRUE CHRISTIANS

Romans 12:9-21

We all pass through certain pathways, which are constructed by our forefathers. Similarly we observe Jesus' way of life. One's way of life can be described as one's 'code of behavior' or one's moral code. Jesus Christ presented before us a way of life, which is sometimes opposite or in confrontation with the world standards.

In the chapter 12 of Romans, St. Paul presented before us a statement of Christian model way of life. In vs 3- 8 St. Paul had shown how Christians differ from one another. He says each Christian has a special function. However, in vs 9 – 21, St. Paul directs us, to the true marks of a Christian and in which the basis of Christian life is a life of love.

Life of Love is the True Mark of a Christian

The whole meaning of the Christian way of life is condensed in the cross of Christ. It is the symbol of His genuine love to His creation. Therefore our love for others should be like God's love for us, which is revealed at the cross of Christ. It is a genuine love. Our love for others should be genuine. (Vs.9). This would help us to show forth brotherly affection.

Practice Brotherly Affection in Interpersonal Relations

V 10 reminds us how we should regard our fellow beings, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to follow the way of life of Jesus in one's inter- personal relationship. Remember that what we do to other fellow beings shapes a part of the Triune God's plan for His church and His people. Brotherly affection helps us to see the brother's need.

Practice Hospitality as a Christian virtue, not as a Burden

Hospitality is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The exercise of this is obligatory for a Christian. In sharing the gift of hospitality, St. Paul directs us to associate with all our Christian brethren irrespective of their social, economic or intellectual status.

Prayer: "Dear Lord, please help us to be active in good deeds, and care sympathetically for one another, even for those who oppose us."

Rev. Joseph Daniel, Switzerland

*"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."
Romans 12:9-10*