

CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE CHRISTIAN

Romans 12:9-12

By Raymond White

Christianity is a faith. But more than just a faith, it is a lifestyle, it is a lifelong pattern of behavior. Christians always hear “obey the commandments.” Okay, then just what are the commandments that a Christian is suppose to obey? Not just in general, like “be good,” but specifically. Well, here’s a list.

1. *Romans 12:9* Let love be without dissimulation.

Dissimulation means to hide true feelings, like Judas’ kiss (***Luke 22:48***). If love is the greatest virtue then maybe faked love is the greatest vice.

2. *Romans 12:9* Abhor that which is evil.

Many Christians who are willing to not sin are unfortunately willing to be entertained by other people’s sins. How can we resist other people’s sins? Our first line of defense is to be shocked by it.

3. *Romans 12:9* Cleave to that which is good.

The Greek word for cleave, kollomenoi, means glued. In other words, not only stick with the good, but really stick with the good; in fact, attached.

4. *Romans 12:10* Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.

This is not divine love here, but family love. The love of a brother to his brother.

5. *Romans 12:10* ...in honour preferring one another.

“Preferring” is a poor translation. Better is “to be first.” The idea is that if someone deserves honor, you be the first to give it. Set the example.

6. *Romans 12:11* Not slothful in business.

“Business” is a very bad translation. The Greek word “spouda” has nothing to do with business. The word means “zeal.” The text means don’t be lazy in your zeal.

7. *Romans 12:11* Fervent in spirit.

Literally, burning. The meaning is, get some passion.

8. *Romans 12:11* Serving the Lord.

“Serving” means more than service. The Greek word *douleuontes* means slavery. In other words, put your back to it.

9. *Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope.*

Hope of what? Hope of the promises, hope of the resurrection, hope of salvation. There is much to rejoice over.

10. *Romans 12:12 Patient in tribulation.*

God expects us to endure through the bad times, not just to breeze through the good times. Endurance is part of being a Christian.

11. *Romans 12:12 Continuing instant in prayer.*

That God hears you at all times is a marvelous thing. God listens. You have access. Use it. Talk to him, because he hears.