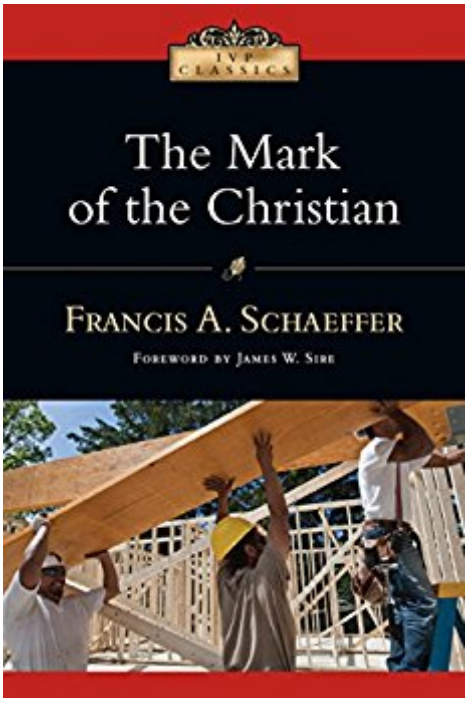
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The Mark Of The Christian (IVP Classics)



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Synopsis

"It is possible to be a Christian without showing the mark, but if we expect non-Christians to know that we are Christians, we must show the mark."Christians have not always presented an inviting picture to the world. Too often we have failed to show the beauty of authentic Christian love. And the world has disregarded Christianity as a result.In our era of global violence and sectarian intolerance, the church needs to hear anew the challenge of this book. Decades ago Francis Schaeffer exhorted, "Love--and the unity it attests to--is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father." More than ever, the church needs to respond compassionately to a needy world. More than ever, we need to show the Mark.

Book Information

File Size: 383 KB

Print Length: 64 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0830834079

Publisher: IVP Books; 2nd ed. edition (May 23, 2013)

Publication Date: May 23, 2013

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CX0FSCA

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #4,734 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Discipleship #1 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle Short Reads > 90 minutes (44-64 pages) > Religion & Spirituality #2 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Spirituality > Devotionals

Customer Reviews

In a world that is so antagonistic and divided., Schaeffer reminds us of a love that is all too often

missing among Christians today. This e is not a mushy gushy let's just get along false love. But a love based on our Savior. One that calls out errors in false religion and is understanding of our differences in Christianity and lives despite of those things. A love that mirrors the live of Christ. So that the world may know Him.

This is a good book that reminds us of the commands of Jesus to love our God above all and others as ourselves. He describes the importance of unity, but we have to be aware that unity at any cost is not healthy. Sometimes one topic that seems small has a great impact on the health of the church and must be dealt accordingly, with love of course. We cannot be affraid of being "judgemental", but the Word of God must be the paradigm we have to follow.

"We must not forget the final apologetic. The world has a right to look upon us as we, as true Christians, come to practical differences, and should be able to observe that we do love each other. Our love must have a form that the world may observe; it must be seeable."Written on the battlefields of theological discussions within the 20th century, Schaeffer's call to love rings as true today as when the words were first written.Simple concise and powerful.

I believe I paid under a dollar for this book. It is only 35 pages long. Though cheap and short, it addresses the love we should have for one another in John 13 in the most comprehensive and intelligible way I have ever seen. Francis minces no words.He boldly addresses our need to weigh if those who claim to be in the faith truly are. One who is a false brother or a "Christian" by religious affiliation only cannot receive the Spirit love that we are endowed to give one another. The love between true Christians is a unique gift that we are only able to give and receive because the Spirit within us enables us to do so. If we are in Christ and refuse to give this love to a fellow believer, the world has every right to judge us as not being in Christ. To not love is to refuse His mark.John 17:21 tells us that we should be one as Christ and the Father are one. To refuse to be unified as one tells the world a deep message according to this verse. It tells the watching world that the Father did not send the Son. Schaeffer again addresses the ideas of false unity that are propagated throughout the church. Beware of being unified in anything but Christ."It is not a mushy, gooey, romantic love, but one that is practical and that a watching (sinful) world can see."

This monograph contains wisdom of a lifetime. I urge all Christ followers to read it and mediate on the truth revealed in it. During of suspicion and confusion in the world "The Mark of the Christian" is

a refreshing reading.

Schaeffer present the accurate biblical picture of how Christians are called to love one another. It is such a well know and utterly neglected commandment from Jesus and perhaps a new generation of believers will be transformed by the love of Christ and truly love each other.

What is truth? F A Schaefer loves God with conceptual truth--doctrine. As a post modern follower of Christ, I believe Truth is Christ. Doctrine is a man made intellectual tool, which is useless without Love, and the empirical transformation of the Jesus follower, who becomes more like Jesus as she works out her faith. The Mark of the Christian is F A Schaefer's most important contribution to the Church.

Though may easily be overlooked as something Christians are and should be familiar with, I still take Dr. Schaeffer's encouragement seriously to love like Jesus loves according to what he commands his disciples at the Last Supper; both those "in the household of faith" and those who are outside, that the world may know that Christians are Christ's indeed. I can not agree more that cold, uncaring, indifferent, unloving, narcissistic Christianity; something that I'm liable to as well; is not only an oxymoron, but also ugly, as Dr. Schaeffer puts it. On a similar subject, pursuing Christian unity; what it is and what it is not; is something that he claims as the other mark of a Christian, and though intuitively is natural when there is a genuine love to one another, but is still worth studying in this little yet practical book.

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