



The Mark of the Christian (IVP Classics)

Francis A. Schaeffer, James W. Sire (Foreword)

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"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.

The Mark of the Christian (IVP Classics) Details

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Author : Francis A. Schaeffer , James W. Sire (Foreword)

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From Reader Review The Mark of the Christian (IVP Classics) for online ebook

Chris Priestley says

Short, emotionally and intellectually gripping study of John 13 & 17. Written with a rare mix of kindness and firmness.

Bill Berry says

Timely Read

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 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 life of Christ. So that the world may know Him.

Lena says

Short, but packed with so much practical, Biblical truth. Worth the read!

Kate Joeckel says

Short and Convicting

I have long loved Francis Schaeffers writings. He seems to see to the heart of the matter . This book is no exception. For the believer it is a challenge to portray the mark of a Christian which is love for all men this book gives a blueprint how to do it.

Phil Gould says

A good friend gave me this book. I have liked other works by Schaeffer and I value my friend's judgment on books worth reading. This little book was exceptional. Schaeffer clearly demonstrated that the mark of a true Christian is love and elaborated on several Bible passages as to how that is to be lived out for an unbelieving world to observe. Of special interest was the plea for unity. Not the false organized unity we see attempted by the current ecumenical movement, but true unity as demonstrated by the early church. That was the kind of unity that demonstrated brotherly love and caught the attention of the unbelieving world. John 13 and 17 were a couple of key chapters and are worth reading frequently to keep the goal of true Christian love and unity fresh in our minds.

Gabriel says

Book Review: The Mark of the Christian

Author: Francis Schaeffer

Format: Paperback

Topic: Theology of Christianity

Scope: Biblical passages and exposition of Jesus' statement that Christians must "Love One Another."

Purpose: To explain to Christians what it looks like to love one another and why it matters so much.

Outline: The book(let) is one long chapter of 59 pages. It could take less than an hour to read. There are 19 separate headings. In addition there is a poem called Lament by Evangeline Paterson at the end.

What it does well: Schaeffer is one of the father's of the modern evangelical apologetics movement. As such this book is a good primer on some of his thought. It shows that Schaeffer was very much concerned with the behavior of the Christian, not just the doctrine of the Christian. Lastly, Schaeffer does a great job of calling for unity between all true Christians.

What it lacks: This book is not meant to be an apologetic book in the sense of logical arguments for the faith. Those who are familiar with some of Schaeffer's other work will find this to be a different sort of work than they are used to reading.

Some quick highlights: "All men are our neighbors, and we are to love them as ourselves. We are to do this on the basis of creation, even if they are not redeemed, for all men have value because they are made in the image of God. Therefore they are to be loved even at great cost"-16

"All men derive from one origin. By creation all men bear the image of God. In this sense all men are of one flesh, one blood"-18

"We must include everyone who stands in the historic-biblical faith whether or not he is a member of our own party or our own group."-20

"What is the final apologetic? 'That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me.'" -26

"Anything that an individual Christian or Christian group does that fails to show the simultaneous balance of the holiness of God and the love of God presents to a watching world not a demonstration of the God who exists but a caricature of the God who exists." -36

"And the world is called on to look upon and see whether we have love across the groups, love across the party lines. Do they observe that we say, 'I'm sorry,' and do they observe a forgiving heart? Let me repeat: Our love will not be perfect, but it must be substantial enough for the world to be able to observe or it does not fit into the structure of the verses in John 13 and 17. And if the world does not observe this among true Christians, the world has right to make the two awful judgments which these verse indicate: That we are not Christians and that Christ was not sent by the Father." -42-43

"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." -59

Recommendation?: This is good medicine for today's Christian. Much of Christianity has fallen into tribalism and infighting. Schaeffer's call to love one another is much needed. It is short and easy to read, but it is not easy on the heart.

Mike Fendrich says

This is about my 10th reading of this little book. While I get a little nervous about the validity of Christianity

being based upon how I show love to others, especially other believers, Schaefer's point in this book is spot on and, in my experience, sorely missing in today's church. Read Colossians 3: 12-17 and examine yourself and your church to see if these characteristics, what it means to love others, are present in your own heart or in your church. And then thank God that Jesus died for these sins also. And then, take "The Mark of a Christian" seriously and with God's help, make some changes. Me too!

David Koenig says

Scary warnings of what non-Christians can reasonably conclude if we do not love one another and have unity: that we aren't Christians, and that Jesus did not walk on earth. This doesn't make the latter false, and the former may be true as well, but our lives are in danger of preaching a false gospel.

This is likely to be one of the books I reread every couple years.

Wilson says

This short book was packed of practical wisdom. Schaeffer really holds back no punches against those proud and boastful Christians that sow disunity within the church, all the while outlining how we as the body should handle such situations.

His appeal to church unity and how this attests Christ to the world are both remarkable and humbling to say the least.

This book is a call to check our own pride and ensure that we are controlling it with scripture.

Brian Eshleman says

Love everyone. Love especially true Christians. Sounds basic, but Schaeffer's Biblical exposition and illustrations drive the point home.

Jessica says

Foundational lesson on unity and love

Tyler Hagen says

3.5 stars. Very short but important message about loving others and how the world will judge us by that.

Binsy says

Short but definitely makes a lasting impression . A great study on John 13 and 17.

Ksorb says

By WHAT shall all men know that we are Christ's disciples? Francis Schaeffer has brought it home once again - penetratingly, clearly, yet gently, with grace. "... if you have love one to another." He examines Scripture to see what this looks like, where we as a Church have failed, and what to do about it. I hope to re-read this book every year or so. It is only 62 pages long, yet is like a small surgical cut, excising a bit more of my own spiritual and relational cancer. It is good.

Penny says

As pertinent a message today as when it was written. Should be required reading at every churches new member class!
