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“They Will Know We Are Christians”

Introduction

1. There is a song that I remember singing as a part of the youth group where I grew up and that I have heard sung by our youth here and the youth at camp.
2. One line has these words:

They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes they will know we are Christians by our love
3. One of our goals as Christians is to live lives which bring glory to God.
4. Another is to lead people who are lost to our Savior.
5. In the process of doing this we share the Gospel. Why?
 - a. It is God’s power to save (Romans 1:16).
 - b. Faith comes from hearing God’s Word (Romans 1:17).
6. It also helps if people can see the truth of God’s Word in action.
7. Then, they are more likely to believe in Jesus as God’s Son.
 - a. The person who is a non-believer comes to know . . .
 - 1) There is a God who loves him or her.
 - 2) He has sent His Son, Jesus, as a manifestation of that love.
 - b. The person who is truly searching . . .
 - 1) Recognizes those who are disciples (followers) of Christ.
 - 2) Realizes they can lead him or her to Christ.
8. Tonight, I want to share four traits, which, if evident among us as Christians here in Waverly, will . . .
 - a. Identify us as followers of our Lord.

- b. Draw others to Him.

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I. Unity

A. THE VALUE OF UNITY AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

1. It shows that God sent His Son into the world.

“that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:21, NASB95)

2. It reveals God's love for us.

“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.” (John 17:23, NASB95)

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B. WHAT IT DEMONSTRATES TO THE WORLD

“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.” (Ephesians 2:13–16, NASB95)

1. That Christ has come to break down the walls that divide us.
2. That He has made possible our reconciliation to God.

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C. THE ATTITUDES ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVING OUR UNITY

1. **Paul's letter to the Ephesians** (Ephesians 4:1-3).

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1–3, NASB95)

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2. **His letter to the Philippians** (Philippians 2:2-4).

“make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:2–4, NASB95)

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II. Love

A. THE VALUE OF THE LOVE WE ARE TO HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. It shows not only that we have been loved by Christ, but that we seek to emulate it.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34, NASB95)

2. It shows that we are truly our Lord's disciples.

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35, NASB95)

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B. WHAT OUR LOVE DEMONSTRATES TO THE WORLD

1. That we truly care about one another.

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:12–13, NASB95)

2. That we know God and that He abides in us.

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” (1 John 4:8, NASB95)

“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.” (1 John 4:16, NASB95)

Slide 8**C. WE ARE TO RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER IN A WAY THAT WE DO NOT RELATE TO THOSE OUTSIDE GOD’S FAMILY**

1. This “love for one another” was a common practice among the churches in Macedonia.

“Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,” (1 Thessalonians 4:9–10, NASB95)

2. It was something which Paul urged the brethren to do “more and more.”

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III. Hope

A. THE VALUE OF OUR HOPE

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Peter 3:15, NIV84)

1. It prompts others to ask questions concerning our hope.
2. It provides us an opportunity to share the reason for our hope.

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B. THE FOCUS OF OUR HOPE

1. On the grace to come (1 Peter 1:13).

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:13, NASB95)

2. The glory of God (Romans 5:2b)

“and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2, NASB95)

3. Righteousness (Galatians 5:5)

“For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.” (Galatians 5:5, NASB95)

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C. OUR HOPE POINTS OTHERS TO CHRIST

1. Provided that our hope is something . . .
 - a. Noticeable, prompting others to ask, “Why?”
 - b. Based upon solid reasoning, (i.e., evidence which supports our faith)
2. Especially when our hope is . . .
 - a. Accompanied by peace and joy (Romans 5:1-2).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1–2, NASB95)

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- b. **Steadfast even in the face of tribulation** (Romans 5:3-4).

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;” (Romans 5:3–4, NASB95)

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- c. **Founded upon the love of God** (Romans 5:5).

“and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

(Romans 5:5, NASB95)

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- d. **Made sure by the resurrection of Jesus** (1 Peter 1:3-4).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” (1 Peter 1:3–4, NASB95)

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IV. Good Works

A. THE VALUE OF OUR GOOD WORKS

1. They can lead men to glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16, NASB95)

2. They will cause men to glorify God in the day of visitation (1 Peter 2:12).

“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Peter 2:12, NASB95)

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B. HOW DO OUR GOOD WORKS POINT OTHERS TO CHRIST?

1. They cause people to consider the motivation behind such good works.
2. They open people up to the message of the gospel.

“In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.” (1 Peter 3:1–2, NASB95)

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C. SCRIPTURE’S EMPHASIS UPON GOOD WORKS

1. Paul commanded that we are to be ready for every good work (Titus 3:1).

“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,” (Titus 3:1, NASB95)

2. Paul instructs us to “be careful to engage in good works” (Titus 3:8, 14).

“This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.” (Titus 3:8, NASB95)

“Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.” (Titus 3:14, NASB95)

Conclusion

1. These four things — unity, love, hope and good works — when we are careful to maintain them in our lives as followers of Christ, can . . .
 - a. Convince others of God's great love for them.
 - b. Direct them toward those who are His disciples.
 - c. Prompt them to ask questions in regard to our faith.
 - d. Result in their glorifying God by their own obedience to the gospel.
2. We must never forget that we as our Lord's people are a city set on a hill which can not be hidden.
3. Let us continue to point others to Jesus.
4. Tonight, if you do not know our Savior, we would like to introduce you to Him.
5. I believe you will find in Him all you will ever need to guide you safely to your eternal home.