

Love Identifies the True Congregation

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Symbols used in the Silver Industry (for later reference):-

Crowns	Makers	Assay	Sterling
Leopard	Identification	Mark	Mark

Do you enjoy junk?

Do you spend time in searching through various places for the perchance of finding something of value - the genuine article. It may be a jewel, pottery, a book, silver work, etc., however under closer examination it is found to be a fake. It is of no value.

This experience can be applied to many things.

The one that we could apply it to would be a worldly religion. Just think if you are an older member of the community, and you have spent all your life trying to find the genuine article out of all the rubbish around - at last you have, think of the joy that this would bring!

However even if you are loyal in The Truth, you may miss the crucial aspect of The Truth.

From the title the reader may already guess that this crucial aspect is (unselfish) Love!

John 13v35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples; if you have (by principal) love, one to another.

Here it is Jesus specifically saying “**love**” for one another. This is the kind of love that does not mean self-gratification, but a caring for your fellow human being. Other people may suggest 'perfection'. But this is only one aspect, at present none of us are perfect, but we are able to love one another through charitable acts to demonstrate this form of love. Essentially it is the “agape” form of love where by principal you put the other person’s needs before your own.

What you need are identification marks.

Identification marks were, and are used, to guarantee that the silver is to the correct standard. If this standard has been achieved then you are able to see these distinguishing marks. With silver these marks have been in existence from the middle ages.

Can we spot the correct marks?

If we carry these Hallmarks then it is our responsibility to be genuine to what these hallmarks represent!
The scriptures that talk about love, give details of these ‘Hallmarks’.

There are other marks to look for and these may be called ‘Spiritual marks’.

1Cor. 13v3 And though I give all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and do not have love, it profits me nothing. But the greatest is love.

1Cor. 13v13 So faith/fidelity/assurance, expectation, love abode, these three; but the greatest is love.

Why?

Because regarding unselfish love, we will be required to always love one another, now within this world; and within the new future world starting with The Millennium (soon to arrive).

“Faith” will become unnecessary when Jesus comes for the second time – we will see Him!

“Expectation” can be self-centred (expecting something for yourself); but when The New World Order under Jesus control becomes realised, then expectation for it is unnecessary!

1Cor.12v29-31 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: And yet I show unto you a more excellent way.

This is the lead into the most important way = “love by principal” as discussed above.

Rom. 13v8-10 Owe no man anything, but to love one another: For he that loves one another has fulfilled the law. For this (reason), you shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, You shall not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely; You are to love your neighbour as yourself. Love works no ill to his neighbour: So love is the fulfilling of the law.

James 2v8 If you fulfil the royal (*thus Divinely given*) law according to the scripture, You shall love your neighbour as yourself; then you do well.

First - Hall Mark.

A little history. The gold and silver had to be offered up to king's office to be checked. This happened in the 14th century under Edward 1st. If the gold or silver was genuine, it would be stamped with the Hall mark called the 'Crown Leopard'. It was the king and his direct representations that tested the quality of the metal.

This can be likened to Jesus and us.

Jesus is the personification of love (by what he did for his creation – becoming The Ransom Sacrifice). However there were other people who represented the true faith/fidelity/assurance who made quite serious mistakes and we may think that they should have known better! However while these people did get it wrong, they did get over the problems through **love** between each other.

First example was between Jesus and his disciples:-

Matt. 20v20 Here Jesus was asked by the mother of James and John will they sit at either side of you in heavens? (Mark 10v37)

Luke 22v14-25 We have Jesus talking to his disciples at the last supper, ... He then discloses that someone is going to betray him, ... They then ask amongst themselves who it is; then:-

v24 And there was also a strife among themselves, which of them should be accounted the greatest!

They really pick their timing!

How is this to be resolved?

Matt. 16v22-23 Then Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from you, Lord: this shall not happen to you. But Jesus turned and said to Peter, Get behind me Satan, you are an offence to me, You do not like the things of God, but are like those of man.

Matt. 26 Through this chapter, Peter denies being with Jesus. This happened three times!

Not very good, is it!

Second example was Peter's (Cephas) behaviour and Paul was forced to reprimand Peter (*This occurred many years after Jesus had returned to the heavens as 'the specific god' of us*).

Gal. 2v11-14 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I (*Paul the writer of this letter*) withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain (*one*) came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them who were circumcised. And the other Jews dissembled also with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they did not walk uprightly according to The Truth of the gospel (*being that The Brethren are all equal before God*), I said unto Peter before them all, If thou being a Jew, lives after the manner of Gentiles and not as do the Jews (*when the Jews are not here*), why compel you Gentiles to live like the Jews (*when your Jewish friends come to visit you*)?

Third example would be Paul with Barnabas.

Acts 15v36-41 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Lets go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought it was not good to take him with them, who departed from them while in Pamphylia, and left them to do the work there. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other; and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed to Cyprus. And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Just as the truth is expanding, there is a serious row between the leaders!

How did these True Christians resolve these differences?

(1) Jesus dealt with it like this:-

Luke 22v25-26 And Jesus said to them: The kings of the Gentiles exercises lordship over them; and they who exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But you shall not be so; but he that is the greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that does serve.

(*Thus the one who desires to be the greatest should practice humility in all he does to those around him*).

(2) With Peter and Paul.

2Pet. 3v15 And account that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him which you have seen in his writings.

(3) Paul and Barnabas.

All these letters show us that Paul held no grudge against Barnabas, but held him up as a valued worker for Christ. 1Cor. 9v6, Gal. 2v1, Gal. 2v9, Col. 4v10, (2Tim 4)

We all must learn how to apply it to ourselves.

1Pet. 4v8 And above all things have fervent love among yourselves; for love shall cover the multitude of sins.

Second - Hall Mark.

This was introduced by Edward 3rd in 1363. This is the Maker's Mark who had to put their own mark on for personal identification. This gave traceability. The example would be a 'Mr Bell'.

The Hall Mark of true principled love covered over the differences within the people who should have known better. However we were able to read from above that all was settled amicably.

But we should ask ourselves:-

How would you have responded, if you were called upon then to exercise this love?

1Pet. 1v22 Seeing that you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit for the sincere love of the brethren, see that you love one another fervently with a pure heart.

There are several different words for "love" in the Greek. Very much like the Greenlanders having 40+ names for snow, because they see so many different types!

We Christians should have different types of word for Love.

This is so in the text.

The first word 'love' in the above passage means an un-hypocritical love over everyone, a warmth, closeness and affection called "Principled Love"

The second word 'love' is different; this means a spiritual love - to do with the mind, not the emotions of the heart. This is the power to love people we do not like!

Rom. 7v15-20 For the things that I do, I don't understand why I do them! For what I want to do, I do not do! But what I hate, is what I do! However if I do what I should not, then this shows that the Law is good. Now I do not do these things, but sin still dwells within me. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwells nothing that is good; for I do have the will, but I do not know how to perform good things. I do not do the good that I want to do; and I do the evil which I do not want to do. Now, if I do what I don't want to do, I no longer do these things because it is the sin within me doing it.

We, like Paul, have to overcome this problem within us.

Third - Hall Mark.

Edward 4th introduced this mark called "Assay" in the year 1418. This is used to ensure that the inspectors have been checked every year to meet the required standard.

The wardens were registered and given the letter A for one year, B the next, C after that and so on. They were inspected and checked by independent people.

Similarly we should be checked and tested regularly, to see if we make the required standard.

The Bible also tells us to audit ourselves against what The Bible specifically instructs us to do.

Fourth - Hall Mark.

This is called the Sterling Mark. It was introduced in 1544. It was introduced because some people would shave the edges off the coins. These coins had a fair amount of silver in. It was this silver that could be melted down to make over things, that these people were desirous of.

This Hall Mark was the certification to say that the silver plate standard had not become debased.

This can be used as an example for ourselves!

We can look at ourselves and check ourselves out.

Are we becoming debased?

Can we look to others and thus wait to for them to become perfect before we thought we should change?

Use them as our example?

No! Because we would still be waiting!

No one will ever be perfect in this worldly system (except Jesus Christ).

Is there coin clipping in our Christian Congregation?

1Cor. 13v4-5 Love is long suffering, and is kind; love does not envy. Love does not vaunt itself, is not puffed up.

Love does not behave in an unseemly way, nor seeks things for her own; is not easily provoked, thinks no evil.

Love here beautifully described.

People are able to put up with the idiosyncrasies and indifferences of others.

We see that there must be reasons for us to become provoked!

However it goes onto say that we must put up with these things and show love to one another.

So it is the sins of others that give us reasons for applying love to each other.

We must not unloving by harbouring grudges. It is wrong to review all the injuries that others have sinned against us.

We must keep watching over ourselves. We must audit ourselves against what The Bible demands of us if we desire to fully satisfy Yahweh's Standard for us to become one of His Sons at Jesus' 1st 2nd C.

1Cor. 13v8 Love never fails, but as for prophecies these will pass away, but as for speaking in tongues, they shall cease, and as for knowledge it shall vanish.

The real thing from the spiritual 'junk' that is everywhere in this world - is real principled love.

All the other spiritual 'junk' of worldly religions will pass away because when Jesus comes for a second time this 'junk' will be unnecessary!

Love will continue for an eternity.

Remember the responsibilities that the Hall Mark puts upon you!

1Pet. 4v8 And above all things have fervent (*principled*) love among yourselves; for (*principled*) love shall cover the multitude of sins.

We all have the responsibility to apply fervent love to every one we can wherever we are - we must be seen to be the genuine article.

We must bear the Hall Mark certified by Yahweh so that all humans around us can identify The True Congregation.