

# Being Used By God

10-22-2023

## Icebreaker

What are the marks of a true fan? —OR—  
How do you know someone is not a true fan? —OR—  
What is one mark of a “true” Christian?

## Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?  
What struggles did you face?  
What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)  
Where did you see God in your daily life?

## Step 2: GET FED

### Scripture

**Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* <sup>10</sup> *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* <sup>11</sup> *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* <sup>12</sup> *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* <sup>13</sup> *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* <sup>14</sup> *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* <sup>15</sup> *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* <sup>16</sup> *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.* <sup>17</sup> *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* <sup>18</sup> *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* <sup>19</sup> *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”* <sup>20</sup> *To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* <sup>21</sup> *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

### Questions

In the ESV Bible, the header at the start of this section (Rom. 12:9-21) is “Marks of the True Christian”. Looking at this list, which of these marks are easiest for you? Which are most difficult for you? Which marks are most visible to the world?  
Love is obviously one of the marks of a Christian. Which of the marks above relate specifically to loving others? Looking at verse 11, at what level should we perform these tasks/responsibilities?  
To whom do these marks refer/apply? (vs 17-18)?  
“Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.” How difficult is this for us? How will haughtiness interfere with our performance/achievement of these responsibilities?  
Verse 18 says “as far as it depends on you”. What does this say about the extent of our responsibility? Will there be times when it is not possible? What should we do at those times? What if we fail in this task?  
What is the only thing that will overcome evil? (vs 21) What evil do we see around us? What is our responsibility?  
“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” How can these three foundations help us achieve the marks of a true Christian?

## Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Select one of the marks above that is difficult for you and work on improving this week.  
Select someone who is hard for you to love and make a particular effort to be nice to them this week?  
Ask God to help your be “fervent in spirit” this week.