

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [John 14:15-21](#).
- B. What is a real Xian? Does the Bible (NT) give the criteria so that one can know who a real Xian is and who is not? I believe the answer to that question is "yes!"
- C. "The real thing" in this lesson is not Coca-Cola! The real thing is the kind of person that God desires to wear the name of His Son.
- D. Five things that identify the "real thing!"

I. "THE REAL THING" IS ONE WHO LOVES CHRIST.

- A. See 1Jn. 4:8.
[The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.](#)
- B. Too many say they are Xians without loving X.
- C. If you could remove love from the Father and Son, they would no longer be divine (Jn. 10:30).
["I and the Father are one."](#)
- D. To be the genuine thing, we must be people who love (Eph. 6:24; Jas. 1:12).
[\(Eph 6:24\) Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.](#)
[\(Jas 1:12\) Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.](#)
- E. Of course, the greatest commandment is to love (Mt. 22:37).
[And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'](#)
- F. True love solves so many problems. By doing the right thing (agape love) we cover a multitude of sins (Jas. 5:20; 1Pet. 4:8).
[\(Jas 5:20\) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.](#)
[\(1Pet 4:8\) Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.](#)
- G. Peter deserved to be rebuked for denying Jesus (3 times), but instead Jesus talked about love (Jn. 21:15-17).
[So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said^ to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said^ to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said^ to him, "Tend My lambs." 16 He said^ to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said^ to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said^ to him, "Shepherd My sheep." 17 He said^ to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said^ to him, "Tend My sheep.](#)

II. "THE REAL THING" IS ONE WHO OBEYS CHRIST.

- A. Obedience goes hand-in-hand with love.
- B. Jesus taught that we are to love Him by doing His will (Jn. 14:21,23).
["He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.](#)
- C. So many people and things are demanding our attention and love. We must work hard to choose to love X first (Mt. 10:37).
["He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.](#)
- D. James stresses the idea that mature Xians, the "real thing" are those people who are doers of the word and not hearers only (Jas. 1:22; Mt. 7:21, 24-27).
[\(Jas 1:22\) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.](#)
[\(Mt 7:21\) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does](#)

the will of My Father who is in heaven.

(Mt 7:24-27) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. **25** "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. **26** "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. **27** "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

III. "THE REAL THING" IS ONE WHO SERVES CHRIST.

- A. Serving X is obeying X, but to me to say that one serves brings out the idea of attitude.
- B. Serving X means the attitude of the denying of self (Mt. 16:24).
Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- C. Jesus came to serve (Mt. 20:26-28). The context tells us the divine formula for greatness. The real thing has this attitude.
"It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, **27** and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; **28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- D. Jesus showed the great attitude of being a servant when He washed the disciples' feet (Jn. 13:12-17).
And so when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments, and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? **13** "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. **14** "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. **16** "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. **17** "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.
- E. Our goal, is, on the final day, to hear the words, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant" (Mt. 25:21).

IV. "THE REAL THING" IS ONE WHO SHARES CHRIST.

- A. The gospel is good news. It is the good news that Jesus died and arose again for our sins (1Cor. 15:2-4; Rom. 4:24-25).
(1Cor 15:2-4) ...by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,...
- B. Paul was not ashamed to preach this message (Rom. 1:16).
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- C. Jesus has asked that the church preach the gospel to every creature (Mk. 16:15; Eph. 3:10).
(Mk 16:15) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."
(Eph 3:10) ...in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.
- D. When the early Xians were dispersed because of their faith, they went everywhere sharing their faith (see Ac. 8:4).

V. "THE REAL THING" IS ONE WHO DIES IN CHRIST.

- A. A true Xian is not a quitter.
- B. Even the body grows weak through the years, the "real thing" keeps going as much as possible (2Cor. 4:16).
Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- C. We are admonished in the Scriptures to hold on (1Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).
(1Cor 15:58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the

Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

(Gal 6:9) And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

- D. Eternal blessings follow those who remain faithful (Rev. 2:10; 14:13).

(Rev 2:10) 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

(Rev 14:13) And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Are you the "real thing?"
- B. You can be if you apply these principles to your life.
- C. You don't have to be able to do all these things at first.
- D. Why not become a Christian tonight?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.