

DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF A KINGDOM REFLECTING CHURCH

1. Places God's Kingdom above all else (Matt 6:33; 13:44-46; Mark 9:47-48; Luke 12:30-31; 18:28-30)
2. Shows equality on multiple levels: gender, race, age, heritage, social/economic status, and religious status (1 Cor 12:12-13; 2 Cor 5:16-17; Gal 3:26-29; Eph 2:11-22; Col 3:9-11)
3. Unifies through diversity (John 17:20-24; 1 Cor 1:10; 12:12-27; Eph 4:1-6, 14-16)
4. Lives by love: fellow believers (John 13:34-35; 1 Pet 1:22; 2:17; 4:8), enemies (Matt 5:43-48), and outcasts (Matt 25:31-46)
5. Accepts persecution and suffering (Acts 14:22; Rom 5:3-5; Jas 1:2-4; 1 Pet 3:13-14; 4:12-16)
6. Forgives and reconciles at all levels (Matt 6:14-15; 18:15-35; John 20:22-23; 2 Cor 5:18-19)
7. Confounds those not in tune with God's Spirit (Mark 4:11-20; 1 Cor 1:18-25; 2:6-16)
8. Follows the Spirit's leading (John 16:13-15; Rom 8:13-14; 1 Cor 2:10-16; Gal 5:25)
9. Embodies cross-shaped wisdom (Mark 8:34-35; 1 Cor 1:17-2:16; Jas 3:13-18)
10. Exhibits sincere, diligent, fruit-bearing faith (Matt 5:20; 13:18-23; 21:33-44; 25:1-30; Luke 9:62)
11. Values children and childlikeness (Matt 18:1-5; 19:13-14; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)
12. Assimilates the poor more easily than the wealthy (Matt 19:23-24; Luke 6:20-21; Jas 2:5)
13. Welcomes the undeserving and unexpected (Matt 20:1-16; 21:28-32; 22:2-14)
14. Flees from and repents of immorality (1 Cor 5:1-5; 6:18-20; 2 Cor 6:14-18; Gal 5:16-21; Eph 5:5; 1 Pet 2:9-12; 4:1-3)
15. Grows in ways only understood by God (Mark 4:26-29; Luke 17:20-21; Col 2:18-19)
16. Cultivates Christ-like spirituality (Rom 8:9-17; Gal 5:22-26)
17. Expresses concern for the marginalized of society (Matt 25:31-46; Luke 4:18-21; Jas 1:27)
18. Assumes a humble servant posture (Matt 5:3; 18:1-4; 20:20-28; Mark 9:33-35; John 13:1-17)
19. Attracts frauds as well as genuine converts (Matt 13:24-30, 47-50; 1 Cor 11:19)
20. Esteems small, unimpressive beginnings (Matt 13:31-32; 1 Cor 1:26-31)
21. Infiltrates the world (Luke 13:21)
22. Seeks peace even when it hurts (Matt 5:38-48; Rom 12:17-21; 1 Cor 6:7; 1 Pet 2:18-25; 3:9-17; Rev 2:9-10; 7:9-17)
23. Makes Christ-like disciples (John 13:12-17; Rom 8:28-30; 1 Cor 11:1; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Pet 2:21-25; 1 John 4:17)
24. Hopes in a bodily resurrection (1 Cor 15:12-23), eternal life (Gal 6:7-10), restoration of earth (Rom 8:18-25; Rev 21), judgment on powers and personalities counter to God's kingdom (1 Cor 15:24-28; Col 2:15)
25. Accesses God's power through prayer (Matt 21:18-22; Luke 11:9-13; Jas 5:13-20)