

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a

1. Taking the Mark of the Lion
2. The Mark of the Lion on Your Personal Identity
3. The Mark of the Lion on Your Relationships
4. The Mark of the Lion on Your Relationship with the World

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. Philippians 2:6-7a
(NLT)

For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak. John 12:49-50

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. John 14:10

"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him." John 8:29

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" Matthew 17:5b

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me **because you loved me before the foundation of the world.** John 17:24

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down
one's life for his friends. John 15:13

Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. ...

This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:24-26

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. **He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.** This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. **Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ** in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. Colossians 1:19-22 (NLT)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior. Titus 3:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, ...

Ephesians 2:4-5

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence. Ephesians 1:7-8

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for **He forgave all our sins**. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT)

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** Romans 6:4

1. Those who are marked by Jesus Christ identify with the love of God displayed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. God the Father sent Jesus Christ to the earth as a man to show the Father's love for humankind.

3. Jesus Christ displayed His love for the Father by obeying Him and pleasing Him at all times during His earthly life.

4. Because He lived a sinless and perfect life as a man, Jesus was an acceptable sacrifice to satisfy God's justice by going to the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of humankind.

5. Those who identify with the death of Jesus Christ are justified before God.

6. Those who identify with the death of Jesus Christ receive God's grace – His unmerited favor.

7. Those who identify with the death of Jesus Christ receive God's mercy.

8. Those who identify with the death of Jesus Christ receive forgiveness for all of their sin.

9. Those who identify with the resurrection of Jesus Christ receive new life!