



Marked by Love: It's the Only Thing That Matters

Tim Stevens

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What does it mean to be *Marked by Love*?

“People are done with Christianity. I am done with Christianity. At least the Americanized version that dresses up on Sunday and the rest of the week is gossiping, backbiting, jealous, judgmental, and unethical. It seems at every turn Christians are doing more harm for the name of Jesus than help.” –Tim Stevens

If you’ve ever been discouraged by Christianity—whether you’ve been a lifelong churchgoer or someone who left religion a long time ago—this book will change your life.

God only spoke twice while Jesus was on earth. (We should probably sit up and pay attention.) Both times He said: Jesus is “marked by my love.” No tattoo. No handshake. No team colors or logos or code words. The only thing that marked Jesus Christ and the only thing that would mark His followers—*love*.

Consider. . .

How would I treat someone who I disagree with in a political discussion if I ran everything I said through a filter of love?

How would I care for someone who is contemplating an abortion if I were marked by His love?

How would I help a friend going through a divorce if I really loved him and his family?

What would be different about my social media posts or comments if I really loved the people I was responding to or writing about?

How would I show love toward the gay couple that moved in next door if I was actually following in Jesus’ steps?

How would I treat the Hispanic family who I think may have crossed the border illegally and are living off government welfare if I were marked by his love?

How would I respond to the homeless guy begging on the curb in a loving way?

This is real life stuff. If every follower of Jesus was truly marked by love, it would change the world.

Marked by Love: It's the Only Thing That Matters Details

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From Reader Review Marked by Love: It's the Only Thing That Matters for online ebook

Debbie Mitchell says

Hits the mark!

Honest. Real. To the point.

Marked by Love is a personal look at ourselves and the way we see others. How important is love in our lives? How much weight does it carry anyway?

I recommend this book to those who wish to begin looking through the eyes of love, so that you can become the best you can be for those around you and for God.

“I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review.”

Melissa Henderson says

Do you consider yourself "Marked by Love"? When people see you, do they know you are a child of God? Do your actions and words show His love to others? In this compelling book, the author gives the reader thoughts to consider about life and faith. Interesting read. I will read this one again. I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and this is my personal honest opinion. No review was required.

Jill says

In his book, "Marked By Love", Tim Stevens challenges readers to filter every action, thought and word through the lens of love. Instead of asking "What would Jesus do?", we should be asking, "What would Jesus say?".

The first 15 chapters seemed to be just a sidebar to the actual meat of the book which doesn't begin until Chapter 16 when it was hit and miss. If I hadn't been reviewing this book, I doubt I could have read past chapter 7. The author really enjoys his stories about himself and his experiences.

While I agree that we should strive to love others rather than judge them and that we should not place high expectations on those around us, I was unclear as to whether or not Mr. Stevens wrote the book to get that point across or just tell stories about himself. There were some stories included about other people, but they tended to circle back to him.

He did make some excellent points making it a good book to skim and get some good advice.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Barbour Publishing, Inc. I was not required to write a review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Connie Saunders says

Author Tim Stevens has written a book that challenges us to take a hard look at ourselves and decide if we are truly living up to the name of Christian. Are we loving as God loves and are we displaying Jesus Christ in our thoughts, our speech and our actions? Are we good examples and are we truly marked by love? *Marked By Love: A Dare to Walk Away from Judgment and Hypocrisy* has thirty-one chapters with attention grabbing titles, such as *Heart Surgery in a Cornfield---I Don't Want to Be Called a Christian---Stop Talking and Start Loving---The Day a Punk Taught Me About Love* and finally, *It's the Only Thing That Matters*. It is filled with statements that may rub you the wrong way because they remind us of the true definition of following Jesus. "A person who is marked by love looks for ways to serve others and will stand against racism and stereotypes. A person who is marked by love is convinced to her core that Jesus died because of His love for all and that each human being is as precious in His eyes as the next." (p.133) This is a book that deserves being marked in itself because it is filled with statements that need to be highlighted and referred to over and over again. *Marked By Love* is an excellent book that I will read more than once.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review.

Emma says

Marked by Love: A Dare to Walk Away from Judgment and Hypocrisy by Tim Stevens

What does it mean to be Marked by Love?

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I highly recommend reading.

Marked by Love: A Dare to Walk Away from Judgment and Hypocrisy by Tim Stevens is a wonderful well written 5 star book.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review.

I am looking forward to reading more books by Tim Stevens.

Fairness Is Overrated: And 51 Other Leadership Principles to Revolutionize Your Workplace
by Tim Stevens

Nyla Wilkerson says

Marked by Love: A Dare to Walk Away from Judgment and Hypocrisy by author Tim Steven is a frank, real, honest look at how we see and love others. It is an in your face, step on your toes, search inside yourself book that challenges readers.

Are we Christians living as the Bible commands? Are we loving others? Do we not judge? These are stinging questions but this book is a wake up call to anyone who has forgotten. We are to be Jesus to others and live as He taught us everyday, not just the hour or two on Sunday when we are in church.

The author explains God said twice in scripture "Jesus is marked by my love". Jesus did not have a tattoo or certain color he always wore to mark Him. The only thing that marked Jesus Christ and the only thing that would mark His followers is love. We as followers are also marked by love. Do we act like it? Can we treat everyone with love? We are commanded to do just that. Not just people we like but everyone. Even those we disagree with in choices, politics, lifestyle, and anything.

I would highly recommend this walk the walk book to anyone. It is very upfront about people needing to change. How would our world be if we treated everyone with love and showed them Jesus? Think of the changes! This is a great group read. Believe me, you will want to discuss it with people. You will want to change for the better. This reader did. It gets a 5 out of 5 stars from me. I received a copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review. All opinions are my own honest ones.

Joan says

Stevens reminds us in this world of anger and hate that Jesus was marked by love. He has included thirty readings, thirty challenges to see if our lives are marked by love. It is only by love that we can change the world.

My favorite reading was the fifth one, Famous Last Words. After telling a couple of stories about dying people and their last words, he writes about Jesus washing his disciples' feet. John 13:13-14 says Jesus knew God the Father had put all things under his power. Then he washes the feet. Jesus knew He was the most powerful person on the planet yet showed His love by doing a servant task. In case the disciples miss the lesson, Jesus tells them, "This is how you love one another." (Loc. 360/2237) This changes everything, Stevens says. "What if love became the filter through which everything [we] did or said flowed?" (Loc 374/2237) How would that change our relationships, our discussions, our actions?

That is just one of the thought provoking chapters Stevens has included in the book. His writing is not preachy nor accusative. He honestly shares his journey, frustrated with "Christians" giving Jesus a bad name. (Loc 413/2237) His problem is not with Jesus, he says, but with what Christianity has become. (Loc

435/2237)

I recommend this book to people who are frustrated with Christianity today. If you want to be marked by love, to be a different kind of Christian, this book will give you good encouragement to be so. You won't be preached at. You'll only read some really thought provoking essays that just might change your idea of what it means to be a Jesus follower. You may not agree with everything Stevens writes. I didn't. But I did appreciate the challenges.

Food for thought: "...you can study all you want ... you can win every religious argument – but if you aren't becoming more loving in the process, then it is all worthless." (Loc 103/2237)

More food for thought: "Imagine if every person on planet Earth who claims to follow Jesus would do just [these] three things: 1. Love God. 2. Love yourself. 3. Love the next person you see." (Loc 1035/2237)

I received a complimentary galley of this book from the publisher. My comments are an independent and honest review.

Rachel Benzine says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for giving an unbiased review.

Oh, dear friends, how I loved this book. So often, American Christians are swept up in the us-versus-them, conservative-versus-liberal, white-versus-everyone-else drama that typifies the rest of American culture. In this book, Stevens calls Christians back to a life that is marked by love. He examines the theme of love that wound its way through the life of Jesus, as well as through the rest of the Bible.

In my experience, most Christian books tend to either advocate for holiness (which seems so often to take the form of judgment, condemnation, and self-righteousness) OR radical love (which seems so often to imply that sin isn't a big deal, that Christians aren't to be set apart, and that we can live as the world lives). Stevens does a great job of both advocating for holiness and for love, for being a light on the hill while demonstrating the crazy love of Jesus to everyone we encounter. He is humble and genuine. He doesn't set himself up as a teacher who knows better than you - rather, he portrays himself as a fellow imperfect journeyman, trying his best to honor God in every aspect of his life.

I would SO highly recommend this. It's worth a read. A solid 5 stars.

E. Maria Thomas says

Marked by Love by Tim Stevens ... All I can say is "Wow, that's me in so many instances." It's shocking that you spend your life in church but don't feel love, just fear of hell and condemnation and judgment. This book talks about dealing with anger over people that don't do anything to hurt me, aren't doing anything illegal or unkind, they were just living their life, but you respond to them in an unkind way because what they do bugs you. Our words and actions really do cut deeper than any sword. I never realized just how much. We live in a world the truly has lost the ability to agree to disagree and respond with words and actions that humiliate and dehumanize. I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review. This book is truly an eye opener and I am glad I read it.

Henk-Jan van der Klis says

There many ways to distract people from Christians. Their focus on narrow-defined theology, churches for every thinkable target group, intolerance towards others, and obvious lack of integrity when it comes to practice what you preach. Every now and then it's important to be pointed at Jesus Christ's core message to his followers: love God and love others.

Tim Stevens in *Marked by Love: It's the Only Thing That Matters* strips Christianity, especially the Americanized version of it, to the basic tenets and practical consequences of love in action. Sometimes that sounds easy and cheesy, while Stevens is the first to acknowledge that loving others like you say you love God is difficult. Numerous examples from his personal life, books, and movies, as well as outreach programs in the church communities he served help to understand why God qualified Jesus as 'marked by my love' twice. As the great chapter in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians summarizes: "Three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love." Let people know we are Christians by our love!

Zachary Houle says

I don't know much about Tim Stevens beyond what he has written about in his new book, *Marked by Love*, but I know enough to the point where I wouldn't mind sharing a cup of coffee with him in some café at some point. That might strike you as strange, for Stevens once called himself a fundamentalist Christian. If you know me, you know that I'm anything but a fundamentalist. Heck, Stevens also considered himself to be an evangelical at one point, and there are things about evangelicalism that unsettle me. However, where he and I share common ground is that the two of us are aware of the baggage that the word "Christian" brings. Stevens now calls himself a "disciple," which is probably the best word to describe him?—?based off of this new book. That's an accurate term because, in the end, a disciple is what he's interested in being, not just a mere Christian.

Indeed, *Marked by Love*?—?despite being written by someone with conservative leanings?—?is a book that expresses dismay at what Christianity has become. Even Stevens takes issue and umbrage with some elements of the political and religious right, which he calls out in his superb tome. Essentially, this is a book that calls for the teachings of Jesus to be more closely followed, and that we should express ourselves in our dealings with others from a posture of love, always. Don't know how to deal with the Mexican family that moved across the street? Seek to understand them and love them. Feeling anxious about a lesbian or gay couple in your own backyard? Do the same. Though the book is fairly short at a tick above 200 pages, it is weighty and thoughtful and full of wonderful stories.

Read the rest here: https://medium.com/@zachary_houle/a-r...

Sarah says

Love One Another "Stop telling people they need Jesus, and instead show them they matter. Stop using fear or scare tactics and start loving. Stop talking and start showing. When the people God brings into your life begin to experience a truly giving, sacrificial, unconditional, authentic, and vulnerable love from you, it will have an impact." Not your typical Christian nonfiction book, "*Marked by Love*" truly stands out in the genre. I went into this expecting to glean information about how Jesus expressed His love for us and how we, in

turn, are to demonstrate that love to others, but wow, this turned out to be so much more! Many of the points that Tim Stevens articulates are anticipated, and yet he takes them further and stretches them in a way that is honest and raw and, yes, sometimes uncomfortable. An apt description for this book would be eyebrow-raising. Stevens explains that we should move past using the title of “Christians” because it has taken on such a negative connotation over the centuries and is more often than not offensive and use instead a term such as “Christ follower.” At first I was taken aback at this; however, as with so much of this book, I found that when I put aside my initial reaction and considered what Stevens was saying, I understood his point. The best aspect of “Marked by Love” was that it was thought-provoking. It was an immersive reading experience; it didn’t just reinforce my theological views and ideas but rather challenged me to look outside the box and consider aspects of my faith and life in general in ways I hadn’t before. Stevens doesn’t purport to have all the answers, and although I didn’t always completely agree with him 100%, he expressed and explained his views logically, reaching out to the reader and drawing them in instead of just preaching to them. Many of the Scriptures used throughout the book were taken from The Message, a translation which I have not used before and which offered a new perspective on otherwise very familiar passages. Overall, I found “Marked by Love” to be radically countercultural, especially for conservative, traditionalist Christians (I should say Christ followers!), and doesn’t that also describe Jesus’ ministry during His time here on earth? Breaking down barriers and meeting people where they were with compassion, shattering hypocrisy and judgment by extending love and leaving an example for us to follow so that we can choose to be marked by love. I received a complimentary copy of this book from Barbour Publishing and was under no obligation to post a review.

Jeff says

Essential Reading. For Everyone. Christian or Not. Stevens does an excellent job of speaking his message and not really worrying about whose toes he steps on - indeed, he almost seems to make it a point at times to try to step on *everyone's* toes in some way. Yes, the book comes across as overly preachy and overly WASPy at times. But the core of the message is absolutely essential to us all, and very likely the key to saving this nation (no matter what nation you may be in) and indeed the world. The *only* reason this book is getting 4 stars rather than 5 is specifically because of the times of overly preachy and overly WASPy - but seriously, get through those parts if you don't like them, and concentrate on the rest of the message here.

Sarah says

I had the opportunity to meet Tim Stevens at a Push Pay conference in Seattle, so when the opportunity to review his book had come across my email, I was thrilled at the sight! Not your typical Christian nonfiction book, “Marked by Love” truly stands out in a culture that is look for truth in love. Tim writes with such deep truth and wisdom that every reader will leave changed. My book is completely marked up by the things that he says and writes with pen and highlights. I found "Marked by Love" to be challenging, thought-provoking and inspiring. It will challenge your views, and help you to explore them in innovative ways. Tim breaks down cultural barriers and uses the model of compassion to do so. I really enjoyed this book! Lets us all be marked by love in all that we do!

I highly recommend this book. Grab your copy today! You'll enjoy reading this book.

Lucy says

This is a book that hits the mark in my life and will leave a lasting impression. It is imperative that we learn to love like Jesus, especially the way the world is so judgmental and hate filled today. It definitely gives you meat to chew on and makes me want to strive to be even more loving and kind to everyone. I wish everyone would make the time to read this and put these words into action. I'm so grateful that I received a complimentary copy from Barbour Publishing. The honest review and opinions are my own and were not required.
