



**LORD'S SUPPER**  
**"The Brand Marks**  
**of Christ"**

*Galatians 6:17*

Sept. 11, 2011 P.M. Service

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Galatians 2:20, & Mark 8:34-38; I Peter 5:6*
2. **Love**  
*I Cor. 13, John 15:12-15, I John 4:7 ff*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*I Cor. 12:26-27*
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ephesians 4:3; Matthew 18*
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ephesian 5:2; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:17*
6. **Suffering**  
*Philippians 3:10*
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:38*
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
*Galatians 5:22*



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## LORD'S SUPPER MESSAGE

### “The Brand Marks of Christ”

Galatians 6:17 & 2:20

September 11, 2011 P.M. Service

(Also on 10/20/03)

Have you ever noticed, people love to show their scars? Why? Many of us bear scars from childhood accidents, sports injuries, maybe scars from surgeries, we would call them battle wounds! Many times it is because of what those scars represent is why we show them or talk about them. That is not the type of scars I am talking about.

Here Paul shares that he bears on his body the brand marks of Jesus. See [2 Corinthians 11:16-33](#)

**This was in stark contrast of the religious of the day.** It was how clean you were, didn't deal with the sinners, stayed clear of them, even avoid them at all costs.

2 words that stick out here, **bearing and brand marks**

The Greek word is **stigma** – A mark pricked in or branded upon the body. To ancient oriental usage, slaves, and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to, and there were even some devotee's who stamped themselves in this way with the token of their gods.

*Illustration of Biblical brand marks.* What did it mean?

What is Paul talking about? He is not talking about his some childhood injuries or even his circumcision, but literally the scars from all persecution, beatings, imprisonments and more

*“From the very numerous records (on fragments of marble) of manumissions at Delphi and other shrines in Greece we have learned the legal processes by which a slave gained his own liberty. He went to the temple of the god, and there paid his money to the priests; they then with his money bought the slave from his master, on the part of the god. He became for the rest of his life a slave to the god, which meant practically freedom, subject to certain periodical duties. If at any time*

*his master or his master's heir's sought to reclaim him he had the record of the transactions in the temple.*

*“But on one point these documents are silent. If he traveled, if he were far away from home and were seized as a runaway slave, what security could he have? I believe Paul gives us this solution. When liberated at the temple, the priest, if he desired it, branded him with the ‘stigmata’ of his new master. Now Paul’s words acquire a new and striking application. He had been the slave of sin; but he had been purchased by Christ, and his new liberty consisted in his being the slave of Christ. Henceforth, he says, let no man attempt to reclaim me; I have been marked on my body with the brand of my new master, Jesus Christ. Probably he referred to the many scars he bore of his persecutions. (New Unger’s Bible Dictionary)*

The second word is bearing - the Greek word is **bastazo** - to take up with hands, to take up in order to carry or bear, to put upon oneself to be carried, to bear what is burdensome to bear to carry, to sustain, to uphold to support (take up your cross)

Most of us will not be called to literally take the brand marks of Christ upon our body, although there are many in the world today who are. How can we today bear the brand marks of Jesus in our lives? How we display these will be so opposite of the world says a person should be.

1. **Humility** (the world says look out for number 1) Are you and I willing to die to self and our desires and what we want?  
(Galatians 2:20, & Mark 8:34-38; I Peter 5:6)
2. **Love** (love others if they love you first, it’s conditional)  
How we love each other as well as the world  
( I Cor. 13, John 15:12-15, I John 4:7 ff)
3. **Compassion** (not just when it is convenient) – empathy – the point of bearing one another’s burdens (prayer, calling, visiting, etc.)  
It is not just a pity or sorry, but we are moved to the point of action.  
(Example of church doing help and hope) I Cor. 12:26-27

4. **Forgiveness** (not if they have wronged me first, or wrongly)  
How often are willing to forgive those who have wronged us or even be willing to seek the forgiveness of someone we have wronged. (Ephesians 4:32) (Matthew 18)
5. **Sacrifice** For the cause of Christ or to sacrifice for someone else. This is a lost brand mark today in so many. Only if it is convenient, if it fits my work schedule, sports, hunting, shopping, leisure time, whatever. We just don't like to sacrifice. Paul considered it a privilege. Ephesians 5:2; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:17
6. **Suffering** Okay, I will sacrifice, just don't want to have to suffer – really what person does? Yet Paul had such a different outlook and one that we should have too! Philippians 3:10
7. **Sharing (Giving)** (only after everything else is paid)  
It should come first and it should cost us. Matthew 5:42; Luke 6:38
8. **The Fruits of the Spirit** Galatians 5:22

St. Francis of Assisi (tradition was he literally bore the actual marks of Christ on his body) Called stigmata

**Prayerful reflection from the author from a commentary on Galatians**

*The stigmata Lord – St. Francis received it*

*The signs of your gruesome crucifixion on his own body*

*And Paul claimed it when he said, “ I bear the brand marks of Jesus branded on my body.” But what about me? What is my stigmata?*

*At least this Lord--- That I will be a sign of your presence to others*

*Your love through my love, Your forgiveness through my forgiveness*

*Your acceptance through my acceptance. That I will give untiringly in*

*hospitality to others; That my heart will be a place of welcome, open my*

*eyes to every pilgrim or stranger who seeks a listening ear or an*

*embrace of acceptance; That I will enter in the pain and joy, the tears*

*and laughter of others so completely I will be one with them and because*

*I am one with you that they will receive you, O Christ from me.*

Perhaps you are bearing some scars from sin in your life that you need to again give to the Lord. Maybe you have some scars for taking a stand for Christ, and you are wounded and you need's Christ healing.

Maybe you have not been bearing the marks of Christ as you should, or in the way that He would have us to as a church.

With the Lord's Supper we remember and in a sense relive the cross, the suffering that Jesus endured, the price that was paid, and the brand marks on Jesus given so that we could have Life!

As we partake of the Lord's Supper and remember the suffering and marks that Christ took for us, will be willing to do this in remembrance of Him and will our lives this week reflect the brand marks of Christ in our life?

We each need to spend some time in quiet reflection to give ourselves time to prepare to take this Lord's Supper as I Corinthians tells us to do, so that we can partake of it rightly.

[Luke 21:14-18](#)

Distribute Bread

Prayer

[Luke 21:19](#)

Distribute the Cup

Prayer

[Luke 21:20](#)

Take the cup home with you as a constant reminder of the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf