

# M. E. Church South

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## "MARKS OF A WORLD CHRISTIAN"

Where is the "Self"? If you ask a child to tell you where the self is he will likely point to his body. It is that of which a photograph may be made. Pointing to a photo he will say that is I. We continually think of self as that which can be found between a man's hat and his boots.

We are willing to say that self is Physical, mental, and spiritual. Every new interest is an addition to ones self. We are social, we have desire, and ambitions. Each new activity is an addition to ones self. Each new activity each new enterprise that calls forth our co-operation constitutes an expansion of the self. If Red cross work, Near East relief, starving Chinese, or our own orphans amongst us move us to get up and help then these things become a factor in our "Self".

Now if we are moved by these things to action and they become factors in the self of us and thereby bring about an expansion of the self just how big are you to day? Do you find that you are no larger than Indianola? Are the interests of our fair little city the only factors that enter into your "Self" If so then you are mighty small.

You may live in Indianola and be a world Christian. Or you may travel all over the face of the earth and be only an Indianola Christian. Well the word Christian would then be out of place. You would be an Indianola religionist. You are either a big self or a little self according as your attitude is for the world or for your local town.

Many things have happened in the last few years to make us think in world terms:

1. World war.
2. Inventions
3. Linburghs flight across the Atlantic.
4. Youth movements, such as Boy Scouts etc.
5. Efforts at world peace.
6. International Rotary and like institutions.

7. *Edison's death*

The world is mightily shrunk up in these days so that all the important events are read around the world almost as they happen. It is no time for local Christians or provincial Christians neither for national Christians. The only goal that we may step short of is the world Christian.

The Hebrew religion was racial and had to be superceded. A religion that is local, tribal, or national of necessity must step aside and give place to the ensweeping religion formed out of the principles of the teachings of the first World Christian Jesus of Nazareth- the matchless Son of God.

The World Christian is marked:

1. Love fellow men. Hating your neighbor or the man farthest from you in the world bars you, from this title. Love in the Bible means good will strong enough to serve and not feel it a condescension.
2. Earnestness in the world program. *"For-our mission"*
3. Giving up the pleasures in this world that have God left out- in other words pleasures that can not be used for the glory of God.
4. Cheerfulness.
5. Sacrifice.

God is calling you to a partnership in a great task. Are you willing to be empowered, as were Paul, Barnabas, Peter, and Jehn?

The work of world Christians is taking hold upon the peoples of the world. For example look at that Chinese school yonder. The Boxers have surrounded the school. All gates but one are closed. The Cross is laid in that gate and word is passed back into the school that any one who steps on the Cross may go unhurt. Those who go around it refusing to step on it shall be killed.

The line starts out of the gate. The first seven trample on the Cross. We think that is horrible but every person who holds on to sin and lives a life of worldliness whether in or out of the church thereby disowning the cause of Christ or hurting the influence of the church is trampling on the Cross of Jesus as truly as those Chinese students.

These seven went free. The next student to pass out was a girl. She approached the Cross. Kneeling before it she kissed it and walked around it and stepped aside to be shot. Not another in that long line of a hundred students falters but walked around the Cross and stood in line to be killed. When 30000 Chinese could face death in 1900 rather than deny their Master it seems that the first great World Christian our precious Lord is winning out in the hearts of men.

