How to Recognize a Faithful Christian
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet sources)

Introduction:
A. Hebrews 10:19-31
   B. The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish converts.
      1. They had been saved from Egyptian bondage to a law they could not
         keep, but the rituals of the law were all they knew.
      2. Because of this some of these converts appear to be tempted to turn
         back. The Hebrew writer must prove the Jesus is the superior high
         priest of a superior covenant validated by a superior sacrifice
   C. In spite of this superiority, people respond to it in two ways:
      1. Heb. 10:19-25 - Some are saved and remain faithful.
      2. Heb. 10:26-31 - Some obey the gospel and later abandon the faith

I. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS DRAW NEAR
   A. Heb. 10:19-20 - He has boldness, confidence in his salvation - Isa. 1:18
      1. He tells the Jewish converts something they never could have done
         under the Law of Moses: to enter the Holy of Holies
      2. Impossible for any but the high priest, and only with two sacrifices
      3. Jesus made it possible - Matt. 27:50-51; John 10:9; Heb. 9:22
   B. What else identifies a faithful Christian?
      1. v. 21 - He has close fellowship with his High Priest
         a. Heb. 4:14-16, 7:25; John 6:37
      2. v. 22 - He has a clean heart and a new life
         a. The Jewish worshiper was never truly clean. Even the High
            Priest had to cleanse himself every time he entered the
            tabernacle and temple.
         b. When a sinner comes to Jesus by faith, he is fully cleansed by
            the blood of Jesus; one sacrifice for all time
            1) 1John 1:7; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:28
      3. He comes in full assurance of faith - Rom. 5:1-2, 10:17

II. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS HOLD FAST
   A. Heb. 10:23, 35-39
      1. For those who draw back - Gen. 19:26; 1John 2:19

III. FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS LOOK AFTER ONE ANOTHER
   A. Heb. 10:24-25 - We help one another along the way in life.
      1. “Consider” - katanoeo: to observe fully; behold, consider, discover,
         perceive; to set the mind on (Strongs)
      2. “Provoke” - paroxusmos: incitement to good, provoke unto; to stir up
         (Strongs)
3. “Exhort” - parakaleo: to call near, invite, invoke by imploration or consolation; beseech, call for, be of good comfort, give exhortation, intreat, pray, to encourage (Strong's)

B. How faithful Christians do this:
1. We love each other
2. We work together - Rom. 14:19
3. We worship together
   a. Nothing will help you stay close to the Lord any more than regular, faithful attendance to the services at the House of God
   b. Three reasons to come to services faithfully:
      1) God commands it - Heb. 10:25
      2) Jesus did it - Luke 4:16
4. We wait together
   a. As time passes, it becomes harder to resist temptation
   b. We need the support we get from each other all the more
   c. 2Peter 3:9-14; 1Cor. 11:23-26