

Sermon  SNAPSHOTS



BEING A LIGHT

Jesus said in Matthew 5:14 you are the light of the world. What does it mean to be a light?

❖ To Be a Light is to Love Your Brother (1 John 2:8-11)

- A hateful, rude Christian is a contradiction.
- Christians don't hate, we love (Matthew 5:44; 22:39)
- Paul taught that love doesn't act rudely (1 Corinthians 13:5)
- One of the first places the world will see the light of the gospel is through how we treat one another.

❖ To Be a Light is to Expose Evil and Error (Ephesians 5:11-14)

- One who walks with God in the light is to expose evil and error.
- Sometimes this happens naturally. When someone from the world spends time with Christians, their deeds are exposed by the light
 - They may use words, wear certain clothes, or do certain things that Christians don't
 - They are exposed by being around people doing the right thing
- Sometimes we must pull another aside and show them how they are in the wrong
 - How we go about correcting someone in the wrong will make the difference as to whether or not they stay with the Lord
 - It needs to be done with a spirit of gentleness and love (Galatians 6:1)

❖ To Be a Light is to be Active in Good Deeds (Matthew 5:14-16)

- People will come to glorify God not only through what we teach, but also through the way we live – our faithful obedience to the truth
- There's a right way for us to shine our light – not for our own glory, or for the glory of the church, but for the glory of God.
- People are seeing us living and doing good and want to know more about the God who motivates our godly living.

What are the Next Steps for Being a Light?

1. We Need to Shine Our Light Among Christians

- a. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us that when we assemble together it is to be done with the purpose of stimulating the brethren to love and good deeds
- b. When you come to services, don't forget to be a light, a good example of Christ to your brethren
- c. Someone may come in struggling, but by your zealous and faithful example you may encourage them to keep going.

2. We Need to Shine Our Light Among Non-Christians

- a. Light is most effective in darkness. Thus we need to spend time with those who are not Christians
- b. Jesus was criticized for doing so (Matthew 9:11-13)
- c. Many of us need to consider how we can intentionally spend time with those who are not Christians to show them the light of the gospel
 - i. Like joining a gym, joining a club, getting to know your neighbor, etc.
- d. Those who are around non-Christians daily must not hide their light (Romans 1:16)
 - i. Let those around you see one who has been transformed by Jesus through your words and deeds.
 - ii. Be involved in deeds of kindness and love in the lives of those around you (Philippians 2:14-15).

3. We Need to Shine Our Light Among Our Families

- a. Shining my light for my family means they will see me active in obedience to God
- b. Can you expect your family to read the Bible, to pray, to worship with zeal, to serve others, if they never see you doing so?
- c. Parents – shine a light for your children (2 Timothy 1:5)
- d. Children – shine a light for your parents (1 Timothy 4:12)

**Because I am... I can...
therefore I must!**

-Jordan Shouse

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