

CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIGHT THINGS UP

Matthew 5:14-16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everybody understands what "light" is, what it does and some sources of light. Jesus used that word to describe one of the things Christians are supposed to do for Him. What are Christians supposed to reveal that cannot normally be seen? What is the "light" that Christians are supposed to have, to use? Where are they to use this "light" and to whom are they to be a "light" to? What are Christians supposed to "show" to others? "Light" is used in "dark" places, so where are the dark places Christians are supposed to light up?

I. WE ARE TO TURN ON THE "LIGHT" OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT JESUS

1. Jesus came into the world, to His "own" people to show them how much God loved them.
- *John 1:9;; 8:12; 12:46;36*
2. Christians are to do to the entire world what Jesus did to His "own" people, be lights.
- *2 Corinthians 4:6; Matthew 5:14, 15)*
3. The purpose of "light" is to be seen and to allow others to "see."
- Christians are to be visible, not hidden away in some secret place away from others.
- Christians are to be open about their relationship with Jesus, ready to tell others.
4. The world does not know about the love of God and therefore Jesus sends Christians of every generation out to be visible for others to see.
- The world needs to see the goodness that is in Christians.
- The world needs to see the greatness of God revealed in the life of Christians.
5. The "light" the Christian is to be is to attract people to Jesus, not to themselves or their Church, but to the living Lord, Jesus Christ.

II. WHAT SOME HAVE DONE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN "LIGHTS"

1. Sadly, some Christians think they must stay away from all others who are not Christians. They isolate themselves and refrain from any open, public contact, in order to not be "polluted."
- Monasteries, Convents, cults, remote facilities, etc.
- Avoiding becoming "light" for Jesus to the world.
2. The opposite happens such as Christian "everything:"
- Christian businessmen' directories; schools, radio stations, publishers, counselors, musicians, newspapers, artists, television, movies, etc.
- The more occupied Christians have become with other Christians, the less they have become involved with those who are not Christians.
- Who did Jesus spend most of His time with?
- Christians are to deal with their sin in private with God, not by avoiding the unbelievers, those still in the "dark."

3. Many have tried to "persuade" others about Jesus with strong words.
 - Television evangelists, preachers, door to door and street corner preachers, etc.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:4**
 - Being a "light" for Jesus is NOT being impersonal for it is "example" that Jesus is talking about in being a "light."
 - Paul preached, explained the gospel, but also LIVED what he preached and taught.
 - To be a "light" for Jesus is to be SEEN and not just heard and to be a "light" for Jesus one has' to be close and personal to people.

III. HOW TO REALLY BE A "LIGHT" FOR JESUS

1. Make personal contact.
 - Get out where the people are, where the "darkness" is.
 - People in the "dark" are not going to look you up or come to you - GO TO THEM.
 - **John 17:11, 15, 18; Matthew 28:19-20**
 - Christians are to be "in the world" but not like the world anymore as they once were.
2. Get to know people personally.
 - People are not "numbers" nor "potential" this or that, they are just like YOU, real people.
 - How can others know you really care about them?
 - **1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:7, 8**
 - Let people see you live for Jesus, not just talk about Him. Words and Works go together.
3. Always be ready to talk to people about Jesus.
 - **1 Peter 3:15**
 - Christians need to be ready to tell people how they can receive Jesus when they are asked.
4. Christians need to point people to JESUS by letting them know that Jesus is the One who causes them to care about others.
 - **Philippians 2:14-16**
 - It is very important that Christians follow up their good "behavior" and good deeds by pointing people to Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians are the "light" of the world and are to go out into the world with their "light."
2. Being a "light" for Jesus is not refusing to be around those in "darkness" (the lost), it is not remaining silent about the One who has saved you, but it is not grabbing someone around the collar and yelling at them that they need to "get saved..."
3. Being in the "dark" is not knowing about God's love and how Jesus can bring a person to having eternal life and being restored to fellowship with God. Therefore the world is in "darkness."
4. Christians are to do in their own life, what Jesus did with His, tell the world how much God loves everybody and is not willing that any should perish - that's being "light."