

Making A Real Difference In The World Around Us (Matthew 5:14-16)

What affect does your life have on others? The Christian is to have a positive influence in the world. And a truth we truly need to grasp is that each and every one of us CAN make a real difference in the lives of others.

Being a child of God, a Christian, is more than a destination, a hope, or just a promise of tomorrow. Being a Christian is in fact a way of life. There is no time when we shed our Christianity. The Holy Spirit doesn't depart from us according to our whims and desires.

What influence for Christ do you have among your friends, family, workplace, your community? If we have no positive influence over the world around us, perhaps it's because _____.

I. The _____ Of Light

The Nature of Light:

1. The _____ light.
2. The light of a candle, lamp, light bulb, even the moon, is _____.
3. Then there is _____. The Bible, God's Word, refers to itself as light (c.f. 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Ps. 119:105; also John 8:12 and Eph. 5:8).

Here is the picture: The sun is a natural light. So is the Son. The light that is God is an eternal, uncreated, or "natural" light. We, as Christians, *"are the light of the world"*, but our light _____. The "light" that Jesus is referring to can only come from _____. (C.f. John 8:12; Eph. 5:8)

II. Light Isn't _____.

What is the _____ of the church... our church... of each part and function of the church? If it doesn't include knowing Christ and making Him known to those who have no hope, then we have _____, and we have ceased to be a church of and for Jesus Christ.

III. We Are To _____ Light Shine!

Just as a flashlight is useless for light unless it is turned on and pointed in the direction we want to see, so is the Christian who is disobedient to God's call upon his/her life.

"For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'
"(Acts 13:47) God has given us light... He calls us light... He now expects us to BE Light!

Conclusion and Application:

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8)