

The Local Church as a Light in the Community

Rev. 1:12-20

Introduction:

- A. Each of the seven churches of Asia was candlestick (a light) in its community.
- B. Often pray that “this church may be grow and be a shining light to the community.”
 - 1. Do we really know what makes a church a shining light?
 - 2. How much time and effort do we put into making it a shining light?
 - 3. How careful are we to not impede or stuff out that light? (Cf. Rev. 2:5)
- C. There are four courses of action that we must take to ensure our place as a light in the community.

Discussion:

I. Recognize the *Source* of Light.

- A. The primary source of light.
 - 1. God is light (1 John 1:5)
 - 2. God’s son is light (John 8:12)
 - 3. God’s word light (Psa. 119:105; 2 Cor. 4:4)
- B. The secondary light – reflects primary light.
 - 1. We are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14; Phil 2:15)
 - 2. Candlesticks (lamp stands) are the source, but bearers of light.
 - 3. We must give glory to the source (cf. 1 Cor 3:6,7)

II. Eliminate the *Impediments* of Light (Matt. 5:14-15)

- A. Often impeded by a too low profile - need to be set on hill.
- B. Often impeded under bushels (baskets) of worldliness, etc.
- C. Often impeded by a lack of contrast – the brighter the light the greater the contrast (cf Phil. 2:15)

III. Identify the *Elements* of light.

- A. Not everyone can identify the elements of light.
 - 1. Blinded by the god of this world. (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - 2. Confuse light and darkness and vice versa (Isa. 5:20)
 - 3. Satan can make darkness look like light. (2 Cor. 11:14)
- B. Some things we can have and not be a “shining light in the community.”
 - 1. A great building (cf. Acts 17:24).
 - 2. A good reputation in the community (Rev. 3:1)
 - 3. A large membership (cf. Rev. 3:4; Judges 7:2)
 - 4. An abundance of funds (Rev. 3:17).
- C. Some things we must do to be a “shining light in the community”
 - 1. Reflect the light of God (Matt. 5:16)
 - 2. Hold forth the word of life (Phil. 2:15,16)
 - 3. Prove (approve) what is acceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:8-10).
 - 4. Expose what is unacceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:11)
 - 5. Live a godly life (1 John 1:5-2:1)
 - 6. Brotherly love (1 John 2:8-11)

IV. Understand the *Function* of Light (Ill. Car lights)

- A. Shows us the way or road. (Psa, 119:105)
- B. Expose the dangers along the road.(Eph. 5:11)

Conclusion:

- A. How bright is the light that we shine in this community?
- B. How much do you personally contribute to that light?