

Let There Be Light

Contrast

January 12 & 15, 2017

(Genesis 1:3-4) And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

(John 8:12) When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

(Matthew 5:14-16) "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Hidden Light

(Matthew 5:13-16) "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

- ✓ We get too involved in culture.
- ✓ We struggle with the same things non-Christians struggle with.
- ✓ We lose our ability to influence.

Contrast

(2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 MSG) Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this way:

"I'll live in them, move into them; I'll be their God and they'll be my people. So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good," says God. "Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself. I'll be a Father to you; you'll be sons and daughters to me." The Word of the Master, God.

With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.

1. Stop toxic consumption.

(Ephesians 5:8-11 NLT) For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.

2. Neutralize damaging influences.

(1 Corinthians 15:33-34) Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning...

3. Give your whole life to God.

• Form healthy habits.

(Colossians 3:9-10 GNT) ...You have put off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself.

• Initiate meaningful relationships.

(Ecclesiastes 4:8-12) There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil... Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

• Find your God-given purpose.

(Acts 20:24 NLT) But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

• Live an others focused life.

(1 Peter 4:10) Each one should use whatever gift he's received to serve others.

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting (January 8-28)

Prayer Services: Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. &
Saturday 9:00 a.m. Common Grounds Worship Center