

# Seven Ways To Let Our Light Shine

**Introduction.** Matthew 5:13-16 is one of those statements which should make us realize how glorious and remarkable it is to be a Christian. We have not only received light, we have been made light; we have become transmitters of light to fallen mankind. Jesus did not say, "You are the light of the church;" He said, "You are the light of the world." A Christian should be just as much a Christian in his place of employment, the schoolroom or the golf course as he is while sitting in the assembly of the saints.

Furthermore, our good deeds ought to draw attention, not to ourselves, but to God. This saying of Jesus is a total prohibition of what someone once called "theatrical goodness." Sometimes instead of "letting our light shine," men prefer to "shine their lights" in the face of others -- forcing people to look at them. Instead of simply being godly, some Christians revel in the idea of standing out in the crowd (cf. Matthew 6:2, 16-18; 23:1-5). Such activities do not cause men to glorify God, they serve only as an embarrassment to our Heavenly Father. In this lesson, we will discuss how to strike a balance between wickedness and pretentiousness.

## I. ***Our Clothing***

- A. God commands us to wear modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:1-7).
  - 1. He did not command us to dress like freaks from the long ago. The Amish of this country are known by their clothing -- it is certainly modest and unassuming, but they go out of their way to stand out in society and draw attention to themselves.
  - 2. Lydia was a "seller of purple" (Acts 16:14). The "purple" was a dye derived from purple shellfish. This dye was very expensive, so Lydia was evidently a woman of considerable means (cf. Proverbs 31:21-22).
- B. You do not have to dress like a refugee from a concentration camp in order to be pleasing to God. Our dress must be respectful and reverent, not casual and sloppy!

## II. ***Our Language***

- A. God condemns "course jesting" (Ephesians 5:4). "Course jesting" is "vulgar" or "lewd" joking or language. God did not ban all humor.
- B. God also condemns gossip and talebearing (Proverbs 20:19; Romans 1:29; 2 Corinthians 12:20; 2 Timothy 3:3). But is talking about someone or relaying a fact about someone gossip? No, not all speech about others is considered gossip in the sight of God.

### III. ***Our Prayers***

- A. The Lord wants us to give thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20). There are many instances where prayer is offered all through the day (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- B. Although most of us give thanks for our daily bread (Matthew 6:11), God does not want us to put our "piety" on display (cf. Matthew 6:5-6).

### IV. ***Our Money***

- A. God commands us to be good stewards of our resources (1 Peter 4:10). He did not command that we live like monks.
- B. There is nothing wrong with enjoying life, as long as we keep possession in perspective (Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:9-13, 5:18-20; 11:9; cf. Luke 12:15).

### V. ***Our Entertainment***

- A. We need to be very careful about what we see and hear. God does not command that we all become tone deaf, burn our radios and never watch a movie or a television show.
- B. What is the message in the words of the songs? What kind of language or sexual content is involved in your movies or television shows?
- C. The reason that we must be so careful is that what we meditate upon is what we become (Psalm 1:1-6; 119:11).

### VI. ***Our Calendar***

- A. God prohibits the church from establishing holy days (Galatians 4:9-11); however, He does not prohibit you from observing traditions and customs that are a part of our culture.
- B. Some would leave you with the impression that if you smile during the month of December you have somehow sinned.
  - 1. We need to see the difference between a civil holiday and a religious holiday.
  - 2. I do not know of anyone who can get through December without observing some part of Christmas, but it must not be a religious celebration.
  - 3. Individual Christians have the liberty to "observe" special days unto the Lord, but they cannot bind them on others (Romans 14:4-8).

### VII. ***Our Worship***

- A. God commands order in the assembly. He does not require the worship service to look like a funeral service.
  - 1. The Israelites were commanded to serve God with "joyfulness, and gladness of heart" (Deuteronomy 28:45-48; cf. 1 Kings 8:66; Ezra 6:22).

2. We are to "delight in the law of the Lord" (Psalm 1:2; 27:6; 35:9).
  3. We are to receive the word with joy (Matthew 13:20, 44; Acts 2:41; 8:8, 39).
  4. We need to be able to say "Amen" (1 Corinthians 14:16)
- B. If being a Christian makes you miserable, then the gospel does not truly dwell within your heart, just a poor substitute for a dried-up soul.

**Conclusion.** God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts. We are living in the midst of people who are in a state of spiritual darkness. They will never find light anywhere in the world except from you and me and the gospel we believe and teach -- they are watching us. Do our lives rebuke them?

Do we so live so as to lead them to come and ask us, "Why is your life so peaceful and balanced?" If they ask, we can tell them that wondrous news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Christ came to make us children of God, heirs of eternal life. Christians are the light of the world, so let us live and function as the children of light (Ephesians 5:8).