

What Light looks like

Purpose of Christian's light is to display God - Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

* **Question; If I live being "nice" and doing good deeds for others, however, I see others, who are not Christians, doing the same, what is the difference? How am I showing light verses what they are doing?**

Let's understand a few things:

- Children of light are required to live displaying components of Love (patience, kindness, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily & angered) **AT ALL TIMES**.
- The activities that the world sees as "good deeds" (looking after; the poor, those in jail, those in the hospitals and the strangers), the Children of the light know as mandatory responsibilities (Matt 25:31-46)
- The defining traits of the Children of Light; The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the gentle, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, (Matt 5:1-12) are much different than the children of darkness
- How the children of light are in Marriage, parenting, dealing with government, at work, leaders... (See sermon on roles) will display God, unlike the children of darkness.

It will come down to not only what we do, but the PURPOSE we do it - Gal 6:7-9 - 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

What does Light look like?

The Children of the light will go through what people of the world go through but will respond MUCH DIFFERENTLY do to our dependance on Christ - 2 Cor 4:4-9 - 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 **For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.** 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. 7 **But WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY TO SHOW THAT THIS ALL-SURPASSING POWER IS FROM GOD AND NOT FROM US.** 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

We deal in everyday battles different than the world does - 2 Cor 10:3-4 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Christians prepare to be USED BY GOD, knowing we are just instruments- 2 Tim 2:20-21 - 20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 **If a man cleanses himself from the latter, HE WILL BE AN INSTRUMENT for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.** (John 15:3, 1 Peter 1:22)

Reverently play our part and reverently allow God to play His - 1 Cor 3:5-9 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **GOD MADE IT GROW.** 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Living in reverence will be the key - 1 Peter 1:16-17 -16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in REVERENT FEAR.

It WILL NOT be based on the world's way, we MUST grow in "The Way" -Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. THEN you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Do not let man set the standard

Don't let self-righteous man set the standard on what is right* - Mark 2:16-17 - 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "**Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?**" 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Do not allow corrupt man to transform what is wrong as if it is right - Jude 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you was written about long ago have secretly →

slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

We must NOT live based on "our righteousness" (self-righteous), but from the righteousness of God received through mercy and Grace- Luke 18:9-14 - 9 **To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else,** Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men — robbers, evildoers, adulterers — or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the **tax collector stood at a distance.** He would not even look up to heaven, but **beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'** 14 "I tell you that **THIS MAN, RATHER THAN THE OTHER, WENT HOME JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD.** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Loving other Christians AS CHRIST LOVES US ministers our identity to the world - John 13:34-35 - 34 "A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you,** so you must love one another. 35 **BY THIS** all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We are to represent God, nothing else - 2 Cor 5:20-21 - 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though **God were making his appeal through us.** We implore you on Christ's behalf: **BE RECONCILED TO GOD.** 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **SO THAT in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

We are very careful NEVER to get involved in worldly matters - 2 Tim 2:22-26 - 22 Flee the evil desires of youth, and **PURSUE** righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

We as children of the Light must live NEVER supporting, but ALWAYS exposing deeds of darkness - Eph 5:8-14 - 8 For you were once darkness, but **now you are light in the Lord.** **LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT** 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

We must NEVER be bias or hypocrites when it comes to evil - Rom 2:19-24 - 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 **you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "GOD'S NAME IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU."**

Now that the foundation is set, Let the Light shine

Starts with how we live

We must consciously and carefully walk in God's will - Eph 5:15-18 - 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Our priority must always be Christ - Luke 10:40-42 - 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but **ONLY ONE THING IS NEEDED.** Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

We must live through life's concerns totally trusting in God - Matt 6:31-34 - 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the **pagans run after all these things,** and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But **SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,** and all these things will be given to you as well.

Our main investments must NOT be earthly, they MUST be Heavenly - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**DO NOT STORE UP for yourselves treasures on earth,** where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. →

→ 20 But **STORE UP for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO**.

Our life preparations are for a different goal than the worlds - 1 Cor 9:24-27 - 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but **we do it to get a crown that will last forever**. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, **I beat my body and make it my slave** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Our good deeds are for God's approval NOT MAN's - Matt 6:1-4 - "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, TO BE SEEN BY THEM. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But **when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret**. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

We must not allow ANYTHING down here to control us - 1 Cor 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-**but I will not be mastered by anything**.

We must live ALWAYS taking others into Godly consideration -1 Cor 8:9-13 - 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple*, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, **is destroyed by your knowledge**. 12 **When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ**. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

Worldly rich Christians must not live being entitled, but being responsible to God-1 Tim 6:17-19 - 17 **Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth**, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 **Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share**. 19 **IN THIS WAY** they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Your wealth and God both cannot have a say in your life - Luke 16:13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You CANNOT serve both God and Money."

We are NEVER to participate in any form of unbalance, unfairness, or favoritism

Prov 11:1 - The **Lord abhors dishonest scales**, but accurate weights are his delight.

Prov 20:10 Differing weights and differing measures — **the Lord detests them both**.

Prov 20:23 The **Lord detests differing weights**, and dishonest scales do not please him.

James 2:8-10 - 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But **if you show favoritism, you sin** and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

James 2:13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

We must KNOW what is good and live doing it - Titus 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, IN ORDER THAT they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

We must live a quiet responsible life - 1 Thess 4:11-12 - 11 Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 **so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders** and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Remember our lives are to be a ministry to the world- 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12 **Live such good lives AMONG THE PAGANS** that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Dealing with others

We must make Godly adjustments to our character and actions - Rom 12:9 Love must be sincere*. Hate what is evil**; cling to what is good***.

***True sincerity is from obeying the Word of God** - 1 Peter 1:22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth SO THAT you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

****To know what is really evil takes maturity** - Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

*****Good equals God only** - Mark 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "**No one is good — except God alone.**

We must make adjustment on how we are with all people and situations - Rom 12:10-13 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

We must selflessly lookout for others - 1 Cor 10: 24 Nobody should seek his own good, but THE GOOD of others.

We will make ourselves understand where ALL others are coming from, in order to help show them where to go - 1 Cor 9:19-23 - 19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. **I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME.** 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

There is a specific way we are to deal with others

Rom 12:14-16 - 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Rom 12:17-21 - 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.** 19 **Do not take revenge,** my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

How we deal with the evil, is a Godly form of selflessness with the purpose to win for God - Matt 5:39-48 - 39 But I tell you, **Do not resist an evil person.** If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

Do not in any way partner with the world, we only partner with TRUE Christians - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.** For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common*? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For **we are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

***The ONLY commonality for Christian's partnership is Christ!**

Live loving everyone, and ONLY owing them love - Rom 13:8-10 - 8 **Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another,** for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 **Love does no harm to its neighbor.** Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

It all comes down to us living to magnify God in EVERYTHING we do - 1 Cor 10:31-33-31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33 even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

Question: (What Light looks like)

Name: _____

1. Our light allows the world to do what when they see our good deeds -

2. What is the difference between how Christians' sees charity and how the world sees it?

3. How does a Christian's marriage, parenting, leadership... differ from the world that it displays light that the world doesn't?

4. Why is it so important for us to realize we are instruments?

5. What does loving other Christians as Christ loves us accomplish?

6. When supporting things in the world is it better to support the lesser of two evils that to support nothing? Explain your answer.

7. Give a real life example of making Christ the priority.

8. Explain 1 Cor 6:12

9. How does leading a quiet life, minding your own business, and responsibly working shining your light?

10. What is the difference between worldly definitions of Sincerity, evil and good and God's definitions?

11. Name everything that we can have in common with others in order to partner with them.

12. The overall purpose for everything we do is for what?