



Sermon Notes

“To be rather than to seem”

Light is the invisible power that reveals the truth, dispels lies, drives away fear, and creates hope.

LIGHT **REVEALS** LIFE AS IT IS,

NOT AS WE WISH IT TO BE.

“It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.” John 11:10

“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16

LIGHT ALWAYS **HURTS** BEFORE IT **HELPS**

“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.” John 3:20

ANYTHING BUT JESUS IS **DARKNESS**

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Children of the Light

“You are all children of the light and children of the day.” 1 Thess 5:5

God’s Word – Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. *Ps 119-105*

Shine – “that they may see your good deeds” *Matt. 5:16*

Purpose in Life – “Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.” *John 12:35*

How has following Jesus changed your life?

Ephesians 5:8-14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.” 1 John 2:11



Lovers

There has to be more to our faith than friendliness, politeness, and even kindness. Jesus teaches in Luke's gospel:

“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.” Luke 6:32-36

True faith means loving a person even after he/she has hurt you. True love makes you stand out.

In October 2006, near Lancaster, PA, a man stormed an Amish school and killed several girls. The day after the shooting, many Amish people visited the shooters family to say they had forgiven him. That sort of forgiveness is incomprehensible to the world; because of it, people have even accused the families of being bad parents of not dealing properly with their anger.

It is just this sort of Love that seems crazy to the world; true love, a kind found nowhere but through Christ.