

Lights in a Dark World
An Example in Every Area

Philippians 2:15



Introduction

- We know the importance of being a godly example.
- We are called to lights -
Matthew 5:14-16
Philippians 2:15
- Scripture is clear that we are called to be examples in every area of our lives.



**Being an
Example in
Every Area**

An Example in Every Area

- Is God your priority?
- **Matthew 6:33**
- It is easy to say, but more challenging to do.
- Letting our lights shine begins with genuine commitment that He will be first!
- **Matthew 16:24**
- **Galatians 2:20**
- Is the kingdom of God your priority?

An Example in Every Area

- In my home
- The foundational unit of society
(cf. Genesis 2:18-25)
- As the home goes, so goes society and the church
- The Bible addresses every relationship within the home -
Husband & wife - **Ephesians 5:22-33**
Parent & child - **Ephesians 6:1-4**

An Example in Every Area

- In my home
- One factor of our society's moral breakdown (and some churches) is a spiritual breakdown in the home
- We are living in times of worldliness and materialism - emphasis on luxuries
Overcrowded lifestyles leave God little time
Homes filled with problems
- **Christians are not exempt!**

An Example in Every Area

- In my home
- The home:
 - Is where children ought to learn about God and creation
 - Healthy relationships and godly roles
 - Proper standards of morality
 - What genuine love is - both in teaching and practice

An Example in Every Area

- In my home
- God needs to be first - in our entertainment choices, how we use our time, manage our resources, who we bring into our lives and where godly attitudes are practiced
- **cf. Deuteronomy 6:6-9**
- This is where we LEARN to let our light shine!
AND this is something our world desperately needs to see.
- NOTE: Even though we are an older aged congregation, the home is still at the foundation of our lives.

An Example in Every Area

- In my neighborhood (society)
- “Love your neighbor as yourself” - 7 times in the NT

Matthew 5:43, 19:19, 22:39

Also **Luke 10:27** - by a lawyer testing Jesus

Romans 13:9

Galatians 5:14

James 2:8

- If you love your neighbors, you are going to consider how you letting your light shine before them

An Example in Every Area

- In my neighborhood (society)
- Why is this so important?
We must never forget that everyone has a soul that will spend eternity somewhere
- Can my example lead them to God and salvation?

An Example in Every Area

- In my neighborhood (society)

How can I be a good neighbor?

- With proper decorum - don't be the neighbor everyone regrets
- Be respectful and peaceable -
Romans 12:17-18
- Do good whenever you can -
Galatians 6:10, cf. Luke 10:27-37
- Make the gospel as attractive as possible

An Example in Every Area

- In my workplace
- The Bible speaks of masters/servants relationship
- These principles can apply to employ/employee -
Ephesians 6:5-9, 1 Peter 2:18-25
- Next to our homes, we likely spend more time at work than any other place

An Example in Every Area

- In my workplace
- We need to be godly examples and realize that in our work, we are serving the Lord
- I must show integrity, have a good work ethic, do not steal, be fair and pleasant
- If permitted, give evidence of your faith (a Bible on your desk, scriptures posted, prayers before eating, etc.)

An Example in Every Area

- Respecting my government
- Government was instituted by God -
Romans 13:1
- In our volatile time, we have seen ugliness and ungodliness toward governments and their ordinances.
- As Christians we MUST submit - **1 Peter 2:13-17** (if it does not violate God's laws (**cf. Acts 5:29**))
- You may not like your government, but you must still act like a Christian. Do not be rebellious or disrespectful.

An Example in Every Area

- Am I taking care of myself?
- By this I mean
Physically (**1 Corinthians 6:18-20**,
1 Thessalonians 4:4),
Mentally
(**1 Peter 1:13**, **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**),
Financially
(**Proverbs 22:7**, **Ephesians 4:28**), etc.

An Example in Every Area

- Am I taking care of myself?
 - What does this have to do with letting our light shine?
 - It factors into our abilities to do the work of the Lord?
- Our time, resources, even our health can help/hinder us from doing as much as we want to do

An Example in Every Area

- Am I taking care of myself?
- Do my physical problems rob me of joy or distract me from clear spiritual thinking?
- Does my example hinder others in some way?
- God needs to rule even this!

The church in our lives

- The church ought to be important to us and the world needs to see that
- God, in His wisdom, gave us the church (both universal and local)
Ephesians 3:10-11 – understand, the local congregation is just as much a part of His plan
- **Matthew 16:18-19, Acts 20:28** – Jesus built and purchased it with His blood.
- **1 Timothy 3:15** – it is the pillar and ground of truth.

Some observations

- First understand, our goal is not to convert someone to the church (or a congregation), but to Christ. **Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:5, 1 Peter 2:21**
- It is His light we are shining – **John 8:12, Matthew 5:16**

Some observations

- However, the church is part of being a Christian. It is part of reflecting Christ
Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23,
1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- We know that when we come together, we are edified both in worship and fellowship
- And when we let Christ be our focus, His church will be properly reflected

The church in our lives and community

How do we show the church is important?

- By consistently supporting her – attend as often as possible
Don't let worldly pursuits take priority
- Support the work with your resources – time, money, talents, etc.

How do we show the church is important?

- Talk about her positively
- Be loving and welcoming – **John 13:34-35**
- By maintaining her purity and unity



**Is Christ
shining
everywhere in
my life?**