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Light of the World (The Darker It Gets, the Brighter We Shine)

Influencing The Culture

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- I. Series: New Series Influencing the Culture
 - A. Matthew 5:¹³ **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men...**
 - B. Subject: Salt of the Earth (The Savor of God; Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing)
 - C. Subject: Salt of the Earth II (The Godly Preservative; Purpose, Protection, Power)
 - D. Subject: Salt of the Earth III (Purifying Virtues of Godliness; Cleans, Heal, Neutralize)
 - E. Subject: Salt of the Earth IV (A Sacrificial Offering)
- II. Homework: Study Matthew 5:14 -16, John 1:4-13
 - A. Why was Jesus the Light of Men? Why are we the Light of the World?
 - B. What does “Darkness Can’t Comprehend the Light” mean in John 1:5?
 - C. How do we as Christians shine our light within ourselves, our people, and our world?
- III. Text
 - A. Matthew 5:13–16 (AV)¹³ **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.** ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** ¹⁵ **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
 - B. John 1:4–13 (AV)⁴ **In him was life; and the life was the light of men.** ⁵ **And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.** ⁶ **There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.** ⁷ **The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.** ⁸ **He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.** ⁹ **That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.** ¹⁰ **He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.** ¹¹ **He came unto his own, and his own received him not.** ¹² **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:** ¹³ **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- IV. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World (The Darker It Gets, the Brighter We Shine)
 - A. Matt 5:¹³ **Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?**
 - B. As Salt, The World gets a taste of Godliness because we are
 - 1. Seasoning: The Savor of God: Balancing, Suppressing Enhancing
 - 2. Preservative: The Godly Preservative: Purpose, Protection, Power
 - 3. Disinfectant: The Purifying Virtues of Godliness
 - 4. Offering: A Sacrificial Offering:
 - a. A Living Sacrifice (Salted With Holy Living, Not Worldly Honey)
 - b. A Transforming Sacrifice (Salted With Transformation, Not Worldly Leaven)
 - c. A Pleasing Sacrifice (Salted with Thankful Praise, Not Discontent)
 - C. Our main lesson text speaks however, of the duality of our Christian roles to influence this world; not only are we Salt that is to be spread all over the world, but we are also Light that can be seen all over the world
 - 1. John 1:5 (AV)⁵ **And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.**
 - 2. There is a double meaning here:
 - a. Light came, and as hard as it tried, darkness could not overcome it. Satan has been trying for years.

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- b. Light came, and the people in darkness didn't understand it. They must experience the light before they can comprehend it.
- c. John 3:19 (AV)¹⁹ **And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**
3. The inability of Darkness to Comprehend Light means that the Darkness cannot Perceive, Overcome, Extinguish, Overtake, Apprehend, or Overpower the Light.
- D. Have you ever noticed that evil and wickedness gets darker and darker over time?
 1. People Get Darker: Those who study crime and violence show how truly evil people started out early in life stealing at home, peeping toms, hurting animals.
 2. Relationships Get Darker: As children when we fight, we makeup 1 hour later, but with adults, we hold grudges for decades and lifetimes.
 3. The World Gets Darker: The wickedness of this world just from 2 or 3 generations ago within my lifetime has grown exponentially (Drugs, Murder, Immorality, ...)
 4. But there is always an answer to this darkness, and we are to key to it!
- E. **Illustration of Darkness & Light (As Lights get darker, the Lantern gets Brighter)**
- F. Matthew 5: **¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
- G. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World (The Darker It Gets, the Brighter We Shine)
 1. “God has giving us the Light of the World to Overpower the Flesh, Overcome the People, and Overshadow the World”
- V. Overpowering The Flesh
 - A. John 1: ⁵And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (**Overpower**)
 - B. John 1: ¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³**Which were born**, not of blood, **nor of the will of the flesh**, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - C. Why does our Human Flesh get Darker and Darker?
 1. It starts with our human nature and nurture.
 2. Psalm 51:5 (AV)⁵ Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
 3. Jeremiah 17:⁹The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
 4. Romans 7:18–21 (AV)¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
 5. When left to our own devices, the flesh (human spirit, it Id) turns the divine purpose of God’s creation into wickedness and a reprobate mind!
 6. Romans 1:21 (AV)²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened**.
 7. Romans 1:28–29 (AV)²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,...
 - D. The Darker Our Flesh Gets, The Brighter We Shine by Overpowering it with the Spirit!
 1. Romans 7:24–25 (AV)²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the

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law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

2. Romans 8:1 (AV)¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
3. Galatians 5:¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
4. We overpower Hate with Love, Depression with Joy, Trouble with Peace, Impatience with Longsuffering; Harshness with Gentleness; Evil with Goodness, Disloyalty with Faith, Arrogance with Meekness, Worry with Temperance!

E. **We Shine our Light when we Overpower the Flesh with the Spirit of God!**

VI. Overcoming The People

- A. John 1:⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (**Overcome**)
- B. John 1:¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³ **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, **nor of the will of man**, but of God.
- C. Why do our People (Relationships) get Darker and Darker?
 1. First, it's because as we get older, the number of relationships and people grow
 2. Psalm 69:4 (AV)⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: ...
 3. Second, it's because as we get older, we become less forgiving and trusting.
 4. Matthew 18:21–22 (AV)²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**
 5. Luke 17:3–4 (AV)³ **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. ⁴ And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.**
- D. The Darker Our People Get, The Brighter we Shine by Overcoming them with Goodness
 1. Romans 12:19–21 (AV)¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ **Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**
 2. Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;**
- E. **We Shine our Light when we Overcome the Evil of People with the Goodness and Love of God.**

VII. Overshadowing The World

- A. John 1:⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (**Overshadow**)
- B. John 1:¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³ **Which were born, not of blood**, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 1. When our Flesh gets Dark, we Overpower it with God's Spirit
 2. When our People get Dark, we Overcome them with God's Goodness & Love
 3. When our World gets Dark, we Overcome it with God's Word
- C. Why does our World get Darker and Darker?
 1. God's Word said in the last days, the world would be come worse and worse.
 2. 2 Timothy 3:1 (AV)¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

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3. Matthew 24:11–12 (AV)¹¹ **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**
4. John 10:10 (AV)¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**
5. 1 Peter 5:8 (AV)⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

D. The Darker Our World Gets, The Brighter We Shine By Overshadowing It

1. To Overshadow means to Extinguish, Quench, Snuff, Smother, and Eclipse.
2. Light and darkness cannot coexist; whenever light shows up, darkness is extinguished.
3. John 1:1–4 (AV)¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
4. The more word we have, the brighter our light becomes.
5. Psalm 119:11 (AV)¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
6. Psalm 119:105 (AV)¹⁰⁵ NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
7. 1 John 4:4 (AV)⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

E. **We Shine Our Light when we Overcome this World with the Word of God!**