

Series: Connected - God's Family

Message Title: Connected

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Ephesians 5:8-9

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light].

⁹ For the fruit (the effect, the product) of the Light [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life.

Isaiah 60:2-3

Darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness will cover the peoples;
But the Lord will rise upon you and His glory and brilliance will be seen on you.

³ "Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising."

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a peck measure, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men that they may see your moral excellence *and* your praiseworthy, noble, *and* good deeds and recognize *and* honor *and* praise *and* glorify your Father Who is in heaven.

Discussion Part 1:

Jesus is "The Light". Period. (Read John 1 if you don't know this). Discuss the unquestionable mandate the Savior has given you to be "the light of the world."

S. Marshall thoughts:

It seems so humble for Christians to indulge in an identity of "Oh I'm just a wretched sinner saved by grace", and although true, it's become a wretched excuse for not letting "His glorious and brilliance" not shine before men. The world is suffering not because Jesus hasn't done His part. We have not done our part to "shine before men". Be encouraged! You just stepped over into the no-excuse zone!

Have someone read:

John 7:38

He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all light, in Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning.

Discussion Part 2:

There can be no shadows in your life when the light comes from the inside to the outside. Discuss how Jesus clarifies the movement of life coming up on the inside of you flowing out. Talk about the instinct of humanity to take - to consume, instead of modeling the womb of life and bring forth - to give out.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

Love gives. The instinct of Light (God being Light and Love) is to give, to shine out. The devil is a strategist and he has no defense against true Light, except that he deceives us into not giving but to live inverted. We become weak and selfish when we live inverted, seeking out affirmation, not realizing it is more blessed to give.

Life Application:

- 1) Recognize that you are light in Christ. Settle it in your mind. Fix your focus.
- 2) Now how will you shine? Ask the Lord. Light/Love gives out and is seen.
- 3) Don't negate simple acts of "shining"/giving. A smile, a text, a call, email, etc.
- 4) Now plan 10 people this week that will get some of your "light". Encourage your LG members and ask what they're doing. Get inspiration on giving. Do it!

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Heavenly Father You have redeemed us from powerlessness and darkness, into the Light of Your glorious Son Jesus. We have been miraculously made light in Christ. Forgive us for not shining out so our community we see light in the darkness, hope in the gloom. It's a new day and every good and perfect gift comes down from You Father God, and You have given us more power than enough to light up and shine. Help us. Give us wisdom and direction so that our deeds will bring honor and praise to You ... (continue on and pray for one another).