




Light It Up!



Light It UP!

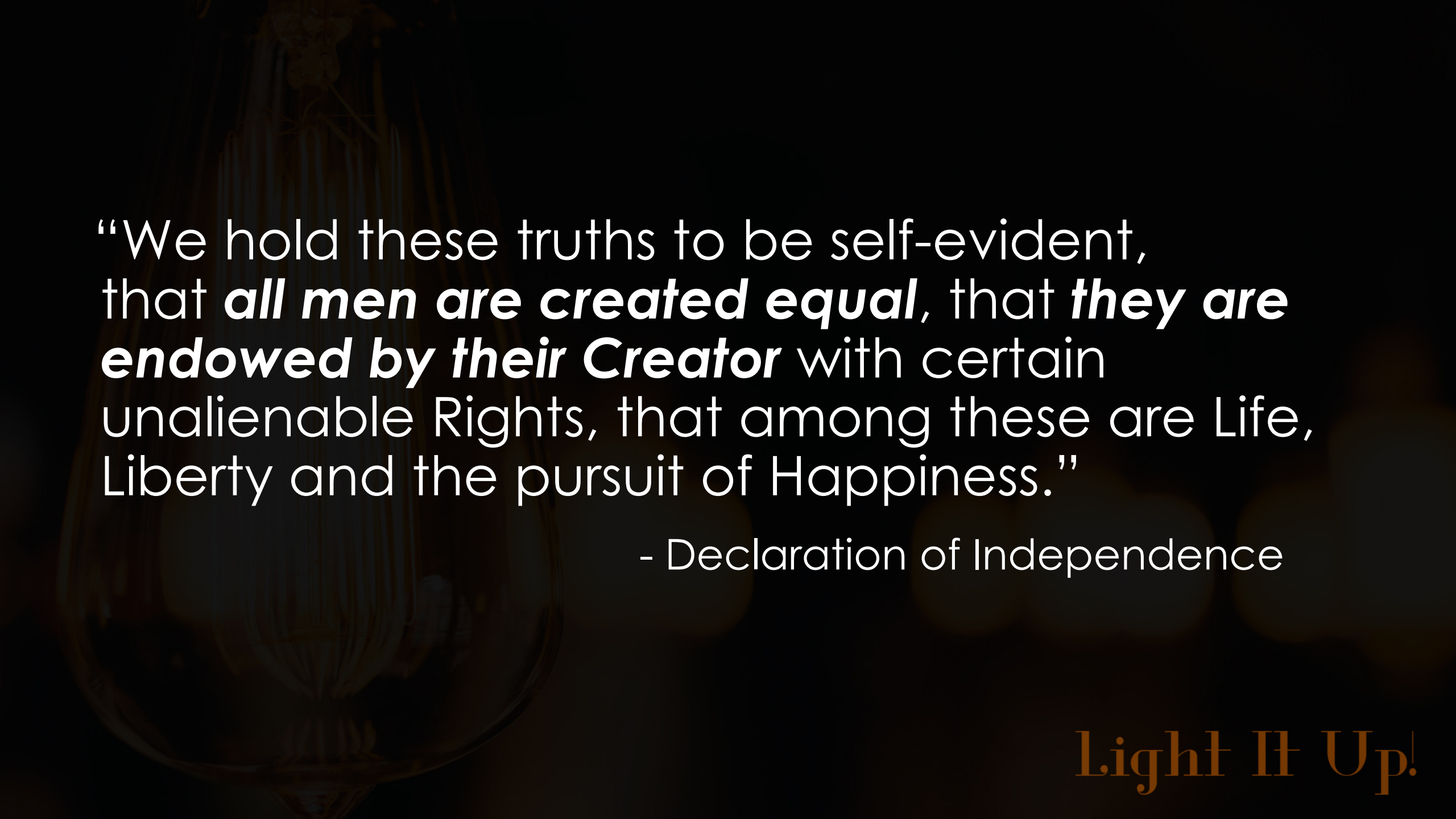
Part 4: Our Community

Light It Up!



Are all people equally valuable?

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“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ***all men are created equal***, that ***they are endowed by their Creator*** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

- Declaration of Independence

Light It Up!

Relationship is the bridge that makes it possible for love to flow between people.

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The problem is there are pre-existing barriers, in most cases, between the church & the community it's called to love.

Light It Up!

How does the church communicate love and value to a whole community?

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How does the church communicate love and value to a whole community?

1. Fear of Sending the Wrong Message

Light It Up!

How does the church communicate love and value to a whole community?

- 1. Fear of Sending the Wrong Message*
- 2. Fear of Minimizing Sin*

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How does the church communicate love and value to a whole community?

- 1. Fear of Sending the Wrong Message*
- 2. Fear of Minimizing Sin*
- 3. Concern Over Return on Investment*

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How does the church communicate love and value to a whole community?

- 1. Fear of Sending the Wrong Message*
- 2. Fear of Minimizing Sin*
- 3. Concern Over Return on Investment*
- 4. Feeling that it's Not My Responsibility*

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1. Fear of Sending the Wrong Message

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What if I send the wrong message?

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Did Jesus offer perfect love to everyone or just those who believed in him?

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Romans 5:6-11

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die - ⁸ **but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

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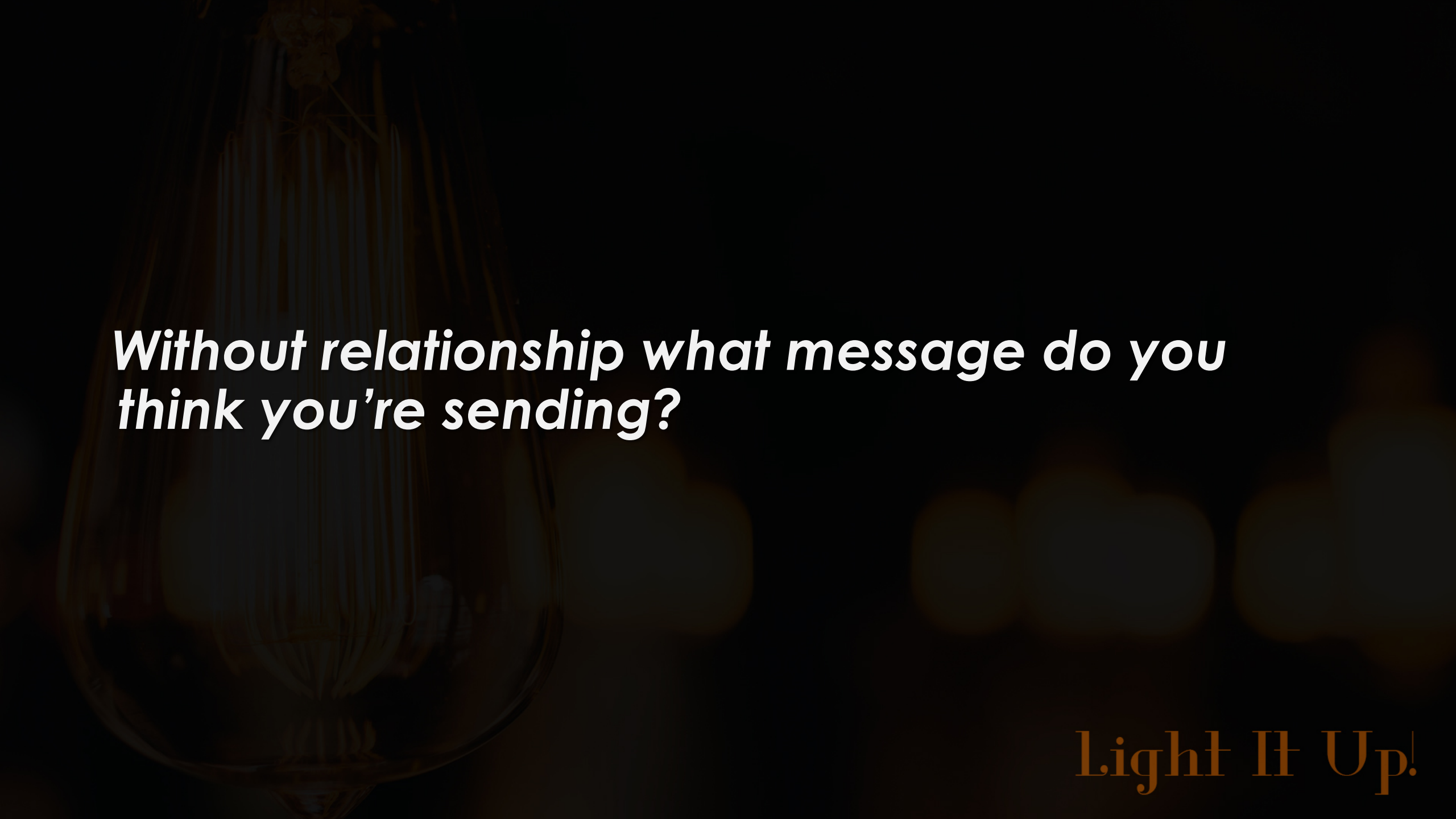
Romans 5:6-11

¹⁰ For if ***while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son***, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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Did God send you the wrong message by saying you are loved & worthy of love while you were still a non-believer?

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Without relationship what message do you think you're sending?

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2. *Fear of Minimizing Sin*

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Luke 19:1-10

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ***“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”***

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Luke 19:1-10

⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, ***they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."*** ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ***"Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."*** ⁹ And Jesus said to him, ***"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham."*** ¹⁰ For ***the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.***"

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According to God's perfect love: people have value & dignity because they were created in his image.

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Ephesians 2:1-7

¹ And *you were dead in the trespasses and sins* ² *in which you once walked, following the course of this world*, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - ³ among whom *we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath*, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ **But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,**

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Ephesians 2:1-7

⁵ *even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ* - by grace you have been saved - ⁶ *and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,* ⁷ *so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us* in Christ Jesus.

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