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# Words of Truth

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## Can People See That You Are A Christian?

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As followers of Christ, we are supposed to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). Our path is to be as the shining light (Proverbs 4:18). We are to appear as God's children shining amongst the perverseness of this world (Philippians 2:14-16). Our walk is to be as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). If you were to take a step back and look at yourself through someone else's eyes, could you say that you are shining as a light of righteousness?

Some months back one of our brethren was showing me some things on social media. I do not use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. As I was observing things posted on one of these social media sites, I thought about the posts I was reading. They were from a member of this congregation. I did not look at all of the posts, so what I am about to say is not an accusation. It is just a step to a thought. I looked at a few pictures posted and a few words posted. If I did not know this person personally, I would have surely said this person was not a Christian from what I saw. I thought about that. I think it could be or become a big problem.

If you are on social media, do the people who read your posts know you are a child of God? If you post about where you are, what you're doing, what you've purchased, what you're listening too, what you're watching, and so on; do any of those posts involve anything spiritual? If you post about your favorite music, movies, foods, clothes, cars, and so on; what about your favorite Scriptures, sermons, where you worship, hymns, etc.? Why all the carnal, but nothing spiritual? What would your followers think if you posted something spiritual? Are you afraid to post something spiritual? Think about how many spiritual concerns there should be with one whose "social profile" is 100% carnal (Romans 8:1-8; 12-13, Romans 12:1-3, Romans 13:12-14, II Corinthians 6:14-7:1, Galatians 1:10, Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 4:22-5:11, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 3:21, I Thessalonians 1:6-8, James 4:4, I John 2:15-17, etc.). If you use social media, what do your posts/profile say about you?

This article is not just about social media. That is just what created the thoughts about the article. To further extend this thought provoking (hopefully) article, ask yourself about what people see and hear in you when they observe you in various settings. From driving down the road, the restaurant, the ball game, the grocery store, the doctor's office, your insurance agent, your neighbors living about you; do any of them see you live differently than the world? Is your behavior different enough to even be noticed? Does that matter? Let's examine the answer to that question.

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## **We Should Look, Sound, And Be Different**

Peter wrote: *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation”* (I Peter 2:9-12).

There are a few things you should have learned, as applies to this particular study, from the inspired words that Peter wrote. You should have learned that you [faithful disciples of Christ] are expected to be a holy; peculiar person, whose faithfulness is visible to others (Luke 1:75, I Thessalonians 4:3-7, Titus 2:11-14, Hebrews 12:14, and I Peter 1:13-16). You should have learned that you are expected to be a person whose faithful conduct praises God in this world (I Peter 4:11-16). The question is, do you appear unto others as the Lord expects? Whether it be at work, social affairs, leisure, online accounts, etc.; do you appear to be worldly or godly? If one cannot see God in your life, isn't it time to change?

### **If No One In The World Can See You're Different, It's Time To Change**

The Psalmist said: *“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies”* (Psalms 119:59). Can you do that? Can you “consider your ways” (Haggai 1:5; 7)? If your appearance is one that fits into the world so well that no one would even know you are a Christian - THERE IS A HUGE PROBLEM! It is not the world's judgment that is impaired, it is your conduct that is lacking. You need to turn your thinking more to the spiritual than to the carnal so that your words and actions reflect such. It is a fact that what you say and do is a mirror for what is really going on inside of you (Matthew 12:34-37; 15:18-19 and Luke 6:43-46). Your life should be a living sermon (i.e. I Peter 3:1-4). Start preaching (if you're not already)!

### **Conclusion**

On December 16th, 2018 I preached a sermon titled: “Evaluating What Your Fruit Looks Like”. Now, I am writing on a similar subject matter. Brethren, I don't teach on things just because I need something to teach on. There needs to be some work done here locally on our being lights in this dark world. This doesn't mean just changing appearances either (as I preached in that sermon). For you to appear righteous the way you should, you have to change some of the things you're doing or not doing! Please, take some real time and put forth some great effort in thinking about and potentially making changes to how the world and your brethren see you (Ephesians 5:15-17 and Titus 1:16-2:8).