

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Oh how we love verses like this. We know that Jesus is the light of the world and that we are to be lights in this world as well. But I wonder if we don't really understand this, or maybe we do, but we are doing it wrong.

Notice Jesus says that *You are the light of the world*. But also notice what He doesn't say, which we tend to do, He didn't say, "You are the light of the church" That's because Jesus is the light in the church, and the world, and we are just a reflection of that light.

† **John 8:12** *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Jesus says that the only way we can be a light is if we follow Him.

† *He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*

But if you think about it, how many turn their lights on when they walk into church, yet they turn their light off as soon as they step out of the church building, or once they drive out of the church parking lot? That is so wrong, it's like trying to be a light bulb in a light store. You just blend right in with all the other light bulbs, making no difference whatsoever to those who need the light outside of the light store.

Church is not a light store, I would call it more of a recharging station. Kind of like the cars we can now buy that are electric. When they are fully charged they can run for so long, then the charge will diminish and they need to go to a charging station to be recharged, or they are useless.

Just like these cars, Christians should be going to church to get recharged, then once they are fully charged, they should go out into the world and be a shining reflection of the true light, which is Jesus.

† *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

A light store = *But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.* **Luke 6:32**

A recharging station = *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.* **Mark 16:15**