

## **You are the Light (II)**

Some of us have no sense of humor, and hardly smile. We just seem to be angry with everyone, but ourselves and our buddies. We mask our cheerful high spirits when we are around people outside our circle, and make ourselves unapproachable to them. Some people also feel the need to *stiffen up* when they get saved or hold a position in a church or ministry, to portray a godly image to others. I don't know about you, but before I became a born-again Christian and got this far, I used to be so put-off by unpleasant ministers and ushers in churches with their frowny faces. I just didn't find their outward display of godliness appealing. Some who attend our church services or religious events are not saved yet - they are just getting to know about Christ. Perhaps they just got invited there, and are attending for the first time, thinking, "No joy?" And saying to themselves, "If this is what being a Christian is about, I want nothing of it?"

Our countenance should glorify God and make unbelievers desire to come to Christ. Granted, friendships change when we get saved, as we choose to only connect or hang out (as it were) with other followers of Christ; but we give the wrong impression when we are cold towards those who are not. The Lord expects us to be meek, humble, civil, and kind to our fellow human beings, regardless of their religious beliefs. We must be of sober spirit and set boundaries in our interactions with unbelievers; but nowhere is it written in the Bible that we are to have a somber or haughty expression to be set apart as a follower of Christ.

Be joyful always, beloved (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Being joyful does not imply that we do not have our own share of life challenges sometimes; but waking up every morning with our senses, functioning body organs, the privilege of having a close relationship with the Lord, and knowing that all things work together for our good (Romans 8:28), are enough reasons to be joyful. We are also blessed people with a glorious inheritance.

There are people out there contemplating suicide and threatening to harm themselves and others, for various reasons - most times illogical. We can give hope to the hopeless with a friendly handshake, our smile, sense of humor, bright outlook, testimony, and more. Your blog, vlog, or a visit to your social media page may just be their last hope - they are looking for something to hold on to; something to assure them that they are not alone. They see or hear from you, and their enthusiasm to give life a chance is aroused. And who knows - they may just turn to Christ, with the hope that they'll find joy, just as you have.

You are the Light of the world, beloved (Matthew 5:14). Let your light shine for all to see. By your influence and example, you save the world from universal depravity.

Shalom!

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