August 3, 2014

"A City On A Hill Cannot Be Hidden"

Bryan Garlock

As I meet new people, they either know or are familiar with a member of the Northside family. My neighbors, associates at various retail stores and even complete strangers all comment on the members here and how they are connected with them. There are few churches today that are known by the whole community and can be complimented in such a fashion. As impressive as that is to me, I realize, too, the responsibility this places on each member of the local church at Northside.

It means we must watch our actions. As Jesus went about proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, He said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5.15-16). Since a city set on a hill cannot be hidden and a lamp is not to be under a basket, but rather on a stand, Jesus expects His followers to be seen by the world. Christ is the "light of the world" (John 8.12), and we are to shine for Him, bringing glory and honor to our heavenly Father and loving Savior. Paul penned, "[d]o all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2.14-15). Does the community see our light or have we hidden it? Do our actions cause others to contemplate obedience to Christ, or do we destroy any opportunities we may have because our lights are dim or out? *Continued on back...*

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Announcements

- Tyler Dance is doing well.
- Jack Greenwood / Darryl Easter: recovering from surgery.
- o Remember the shut in's.
- Gilliland, Abbott & Wyckoff on vacation.
- Dane & Ruth leaving Tuesday for vacation.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Men's Bible study starting soon!
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.

Tonight!

Kid's Drill Class

Parents with children twelve and under please see Bryan Garlock tonight after evening services. We will discuss scheduling the studies. Thanks! Shining our light means we must watch our language. Words can build up and words can teardown. Paul would have us to speak so as to "impart grace to the hearers" by "[letting] no corrupt word proceed out of [our] mouth, but what is good for necessary edification" (Eph. 4.29). Further, we must "let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving" (Eph. 5.4). Filthy language is defined as anything that is obscene, disgusting, etc. Crude or course joking is anything vulgar or indecent. How are we doing with our language? Are people recognizing speech that is "gracious, seasoned with salt" or has our speech betrayed us (cf. Col. 4.6; Matt. 26.73)?

Praise God for the connections we have in this community! The contacts have been made; the people know we are here. This is a compliment to the Lord's church that meets in Hillsboro and to you as members! Let us "walk as children of light" for we were once in sin, but now are light in the Lord (Eph. 5.8). Furthermore, we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that [we] may proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2.9). Let your light so shine! \mathcal{BG}

Are You Inviting Your Friends To Services?

