



Public Display of our Faith

The Word of God clearly says we are light, salt, and a city on a hill. One thing is true in these three things, no one can be a city on a hill in hiding not a light to the world while being covered. Sadly, many believers live like this. They keep their faith to themselves, and they do not make it known to anyone. If they were to be arrested or being Christian, there would not be any proof to prove they are.

Our Christian faith was never met to be kept to ourselves. We are supposed to publicly display and publish our faith regardless of the consequences. Many believers are what I call church believers. They privately practice their faith but are afraid to do so publicly. If you have noticed, many other religions do not care. They will live their faith publicly without worry.

We need to live or go public with our faith and conviction.

Daniel 3 and Daniel 6 talks the 3 Hebrew men (Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael); commonly known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and Daniel. These men displayed their faith publicly regardless of the consequences.

For Instance, in Daniel 6:10, Daniel knowing that the writing was signed, he went home and opened his window towards Jerusalem and prayed like he did afore time. He was not afraid, and he was not going to change because his life was being threatened. He made a public statement of his faith intentionally.

I have seen and heard many popular people such as movie stars, celebrities and so forth that are Christians, but you could never know it. They hardly come out to live their faith publicly. I mean why rattle the ship. Some have been very vocal for the truth while others come out and when they say something or stand up for the truth and get a media or public backlash such lose fakebook (Facebook) friends, lose a few sponsors and they get uninvited to some clubs, they begin to walk everything back. They capitulate! They apologize and try to explain what they said did away. This

ought not to be so. They should be firm and stand their ground and double down on what they believe and stand for. This is getting out of the closet and going public with our faith.

We should not be bullied into living our faith in the closet. It was never met to be that way. Our faith blessed other people only when we live it publicly. It is not illegal to practice our Christian beliefs anywhere. We should worship and serve God publicly; in our businesses, government posts, private positions, at school the same way we do at church and our homes. God must be served publicly as well. Our devotion to the Lord must NOT be hidden.

Many are afraid of loss and the persecution that comes with speaking the truth, but it brought promotion and increase to Daniel and his friends (Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael)

A. Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

a) We are salt of the earth, not salt of the church. We need to get out and live it out, speak up and speak out then only will be able to play a part that salt plays. Salt that is in the saltshakers is useless.

b) We are the light of the world, not the light of the church or our private life. Light needs to be shone out to the world to be of help. Keeping our faith to ourselves and never saying a word is not shining.

c) We are a city on a hill. Why is a city on a hill? So that is visible to all. Some believers are a city in the valley or in the cave.

B. 1 Timothy 6:1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and *his* doctrine be not blasphemed. 1Ti 6:2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise *them*, because they are brethren; but rather do *them* service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort. 1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 1Ti 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings. 1Ti 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of

corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- a) let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor,
 - i) "servants as are under the yoke" refers to slaves. The word "servant" here was translated from a Greek word "DOULOS" which means a "slave" i.e. involuntarily or voluntarily."
 - ii) We can also say that slave here is today's equivalent of a servant or an employee.
 - iii) Paul's teaching about how slaves are supposed to be submitted to their masters. The reason he gave was that it would cause the gospel to be blasphemed if they did not. Paul was so concerned about the furtherance of the gospel and its image that any personal temporary situation.
 - iv) Paul never wanted the Name, authority, and character of the Lord to be smeared and destroyed.
 - v) Here is the true position and question we should be asking. **What's best for the cause of the Gospel? Not what's best for me?** If it promotes the gospel, we should gladly do it even if it costs us persecution and our lives. We have to find something greater than ourselves to live for. The gospel is bigger than us
 - vi) 1 Peter 3:15-17; 4:12-16; Phil 1:18-23
- b) that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.
 - i) Blasphemed was translated from "BLASPHEMEO" which means "to vilify i.e. specifically to speak impiously" (Strong's Concordance). In simple English, it would mean to defame, or speak evil of.
- c) and they that have believing masters,
 - i) In other words, believing masters = born-again employers. We all should not look down on our employers because they are fellow believers. We should all our work as required and not give any less because our masters are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We should serve them more.

