

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit candle. The candle is held in a wooden basket or holder, and the flame is bright and glowing. The background is dark, making the light from the candle stand out. The overall mood is warm and intimate.

Bushel Basket Complex

Matthew 5:14-16

The Children's Song

- This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
- 2nd verse – Hide it under a bushel? NO!!
- Perhaps adults need to learn this song.
- Many are hiding their lights.
- We decide that it is not best to let our light shine.

Matthew 5:14-16

- 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- SO – WHY DO WE HIDE OUR LIGHT?

1] Might appear fanatical

- We can be a fan (fanatical) about a football team
- We can wear a foam cheese head
- Why can't we be fanatical about Jesus?



1] Might appear fanatical

- **Why can't we pray in public?**
- **We don't want to be like the Pharisees**
- **Matthew 6:5** And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

1] Might appear fanatical

- Our faith must be visible – seen by others
- **James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- **James 2:24** You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

1] Might appear fanatical

- Our faith must be visible – seen by others
- **1 Thessalonians 1:6-8** 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

2] Want to look like the world

- Some say we must look like the world to convert the world
- Church in a bar – serving drinks to members will not convert those struggling with alcohol
- We don't want to have a “holier than thou” attitude
- But the world **MUST** see the difference

3] Might call attention to myself

- Humility is good
- Think about the electric light
- Does not glory in self
- Power is from another source
- It just does what it is supposed to do



3] Might call attention to myself

- **2 Corinthians 12:9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- Paul knew the source of the power



4] Ashamed of Christ

- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

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- **Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- **Mark 8:38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

4] Ashamed of Christ

- **Matthew 10:32-33** 32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.
- Why be ashamed, afraid, embarrassed to let others see Christ in your life?

Complex Answer



- The light is not of our own power – our goal is to draw attention to Jesus.
- Spotlight on the star – you don't look at the spotlight
- We must let others see Jesus in and through us
- Don't be ashamed of your faith