

COME INTO THE LIGHT

As preached on Sunday, September 21st

Read: John 3:16-21

1. Light and darkness are discussed in vv.19-21. Why do you think these themes are emphasized so much in scripture? Are they themes that resonate with even unbelievers in our culture?
2. In v.20 John tells us that *“everyone who does evil hates the light”*. Why do they hate the light? Why won't they come into the light?
3. In v.21 we read *“whoever lives by the truth comes into the light”*. If we're saved by grace and not by works (the way we live) how should we understand what v.21 teaches?
4. We're told in vv.17-18 that Jesus came to save the world, not condemn it. But, we're also told that without Jesus we stand condemned. How does all of this work? Who has condemned us? How does Jesus rescue us?
5. Some have attempted to pit God the Father against God the Son in this salvation drama, saying that God has condemned us and then Jesus rescued us from God's condemnation. But, Dr. Gary Burge says it like this: “Jesus came to earth not in order to change God's mind but to express God's mind.” What do you think?
6. John 3:16 is perhaps the most well-known and most quoted verse in the Bible. Familiarity can sometimes cause us to miss the depth of something. When you slow down and look closely at this verse, which words or phrases are the most significant to you?
7. As you attempt to live out the love of the gospel this week, what is one practical way that you can show those around you (a neighbor, co-worker, family member, friend) the truth of John 3:16?