The Local Church as a Light in the Community  
Rev. 1:12-20

Introduction:
A. Each of the seven churches of Asia was candlestick (a light) in its community.
B. Often pray that “this church may be grow and be a shining light to the community.”
   1. Do we really know what makes a church a shining light?
   2. How much time and effort do we put into making it a shining light?
   3. How careful are we to not impede or stuff out that light? (Cf. Rev. 2:5)
C. There are four courses of action that we must take to ensure our place as a light in the community.

Discussion:
I. Recognize the Source of Light.
   A. The primary source of light.
      1. God is light (1 John 1:5)
      2. God’s son is light (John 8:12)
      3. God’s word light (Psa. 119:105; 2 Cor. 4:4)
      1. We are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14; Phil 2:15)
      2. Candlesticks (lamp stands) are the source, but bearers of light.
      3. We must give glory to the source (cf. 1 Cor 3:6,7)

II. Eliminate the Impediments of Light (Matt. 5:14-15)
   A. Often impeded by a too low profile - need to be set on hill.
   B. Often impeded under bushels (baskets) of worldliness, etc.
   C. Often impeded by a lack of contrast – the brighter the light the greater the contrast (cf Phil. 2:15)

III. Identify the Elements of light.
   A. Not everyone can identify the elements of light.
      1. Blinded by the god of this world. (2 Cor. 4:4)
      2. Confuse light and darkness and vice versa (Isa. 5:20)
      3. Satan can make darkness look like light. (2 Cor. 11:14)
   B. Some things we can have an not be a “shining light in the community.”
      2. A good reputation in the community (Rev. 3:1)
      3. A large membership (cf. Rev. 3:4; Judges 7:2)
      4. An abundance of funds (Rev. 3:17).
   C. Some things we must do to be a “shining light in the community”
      1. Reflect the light of God (Matt. 5:16)
      2. Hold forth the word of life (Phil. 2:15,16)
      3. Prove (approve) what is acceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:8-10).
      4. Expose what is unacceptable to the Lord (Eph. 5:11)
      5. Live a godly life (1 John 1:5-2:1)
      6. Brotherly love (1 John 2:8-11)

IV. Understand the Function of Light (Ill. Car lights)
   A. Shows us the way or road. (Psa, 119:105)
   B. Expose the dangers along the road.(Eph. 5:11)

Conclusion:
A. How bright is the light that we shine in this community?
B. How much do you personally contribute to that light?