



#1 "What Happens Here  
Doesn't Stay Here"  
Rev. Dr Jeremy Mahood  
October 16, 2016

*Introduction: From the attempt to ban all religious symbols worn by public servants in Quebec and the removal of prayer in the public school system, to the attempts to have Christmas Nativity scenes banned from public property, it seems that more and more, expressions of religion are being removed from public society.*

1. In what ways do you see society demanding the privatization of religion?
2. Do you think that removing all things religious from the 'public square' can be dangerous? Why or why not?
3. What do you think it means for a society that attempts marginalise religious expression, regardless of which religion it is?
4. Please discuss this statement: "The demand by society to keep religious expressions as a private matter has intimidated Christians and is causing Christians to withdraw from attempting to influence society for good."
5. READ John 8:12
  - a. What is Jesus' claim here and what promise does He make?
  - b. What does Jesus equate "light" to in this scripture?
  - c. What then is the result of a society without light?
6. READ 1 Peter 2:9
  - a. What does Peter call all true believers?
  - b. Why have we been chosen?
  - c. What has Jesus called us out of?
7. READ Matthew 5:14-16
  - a. Who does Jesus say we are and what are we called to do?
  - b. What does Jesus tell us to do that will demonstrate light to the world around us?
8. Our lives should be so transformed by knowing Jesus that we can't help but affect the world around us. Discuss this statement by John MacArthur: "Christians who do not have changed lives have a credibility gap".

9. READ 1 John 1:5-6
  - a. What do you think John means here, in the context of modern society?
10. READ Romans 13:12
  - a. What is the warning and what are the actions to be taken?
  - b. What do you think the writer means by the phrase "weapons of light?"
11. READ Ephesians 6:7-18
  - a. What are "the weapons of light," as discussed here?
  - b. How can an understanding of verse 12 help us not to be angry with people who walk in darkness?
  - c. If Paul felt urgency in his day, how would our time in history be even more urgent?
12. READ Philippians 2:14-15
  - a. What two things can we do that will let our light shine in this current society?
  - b. What do you need to adjust in your daily conversations that will allow this to happen?
13. READ Psalm 40:1-3
  - a. What is happening in this Psalm?
  - b. How can the simple act of praise transform the people around us?
14. DISCUSS: Often we may feel we have no power or authority to bring the light of Christ into society. What have you learned from today's study that could change that attitude in you? How could you use your everyday language to be light in the darkness?
15. Discuss with your group how you could support each other this week in not grumbling or complaining and giving simple acts of praise and thanksgiving to God? Be prepared to share your progress and your results with your group next week.

## **GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS:**