

An Introduction  
to God's Light

*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

*Psalm 4.6*

Introduction to God's Light

John 1.1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the **light** of men. The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Introduction to God's Light

John 1.1-18

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the **light**,  
that all might believe through him.

He was not the **light**, but came to bear witness  
about the **light**.

## Introduction to God's Light

# John 1.1-18

The **true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Introduction to God's Light

John 1.1-18

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Introduction to God's Light

John 1.1-18

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth  
came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is  
at the Father's side,  
he has made him known.

# Introduction to God's Light



God's beloved

Husband

Father

Teacher

Member

Friend

Love is about Relationship

# Introduction to God's Light



God's beloved

Husband

Father

Teacher

Member

Friend

Life is about Relationship



# Introduction to God's Light



God's beloved

Husband

Father

Teacher

Member

Friend

Light is about Relationship

Introduction to God's Light

**I Am** the Light of the world

*John 8.12*

Week 1

Introduction  
to God's Light

Week 2

Definition  
of God's Light

Week 3

Tim Keller  
(Hell)

Week 4

Absence of  
God's Light

Week 5

The Glory  
of God's Light

Week 6

Tim Keller  
(I Am the Light)

Introduction to God's Light

You are the Light of the world

*Matthew 5.14*

Week 7

Darkness  
Within

Week 8

Let Your  
Light Shine

Week 9

Tim Keller  
(Light of Peace)

Week 10

The Light  
of Joy

Week 11

The Light  
of Love

Week 12

Testimonies  
of God's Light

Introduction to God's Light

Where we've been -  
Where we're going.

Introduction to God's Light

Significant concepts  
often come in *threes*.

Introduction to God's Light

Dimensions

States of Matter

Lord of the Rings

Trinity

Introduction to God's Light

**Love** of God — Jesus Christ

**Life** of God — Holy Spirit

**Light** of God — glorious Father

Introduction to God's Light

Christianity (specifically the Trinity)  
answers people's most  
fundamental and pressing  
questions about themselves:



Introduction to God's Light

Who am I? (past)

Why am I here? (present)

Where am I going? (future)

Introduction to God's Light

Who am I?

*I am a beloved child of God.*

The Love of God (in Jesus)  
answers the most fundamental  
question about identity.

Introduction to God's Light

# Why am I here?

*The chief end of man is to glorify God  
and [by] **enjoying Him** forever.*

The Life of God (in the Holy Spirit)  
answers the most fundamental  
questions about purpose.

Introduction to God's Light

# Where am I going?

*As we **behold the glory** of the Lord, we are **being transformed** in order to shine God's light to those around us. (2 Cor 3.18 and Mat 5.16)*

The Light of God (in the Father) answers the most fundamental question about **vision**.

Introduction to God's Light

Who am I? (past)

Why am I here? (present)

Where am I going? (future)

But, these questions seem very **egocentric**.

*Do questions like these reveal our Narcissism?*

(Here **I** am to worship...)

Introduction to God's Light



Narcissus

the handsome youth  
of Greek mythology  
who fell in love  
with his own  
reflection

Introduction to God's Light

The ultimate question we should  
be asking is: Who is God?

I Am Love

1 John 4.19

*We love because he first loved us.*

Rom 8.35-38

*Never separated from Your love.*

I Am Life

John 10.10

*I came that they may have life.*

John 1.4

*In Him was life.*

I Am Light

Mat 5.16

*May Your light shine.*

2 Cor 4.6

*Let Light shine out of darkness.*

Introduction to God's Light

Love of God (in the person of Jesus)

Warmth

Joy

Protection

Defense

Closeness

Acceptance

Intimacy



Introduction to God's Light

Life of God (in the person of the Holy Spirit)

Passion

Abundance

Power

Energy

Vitality

Enthusiasm

Excitement

Introduction to God's Light

Light of God (in the person of the Father)

Hope

Faith

Confidence

Trust

Security

Fearless

Freedom

## Introduction to God's Light

Our prayer must be to:

Evidence:

...let Your Love permeate

forgiveness

*Luke 7:47 - Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."*

...let Your Life radiate

thankfulness

*Psalm 107:8 - Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!*

...let Your Light illuminate

joyfulness

*John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

## Introduction to God's Light

But what about when we just don't want to?

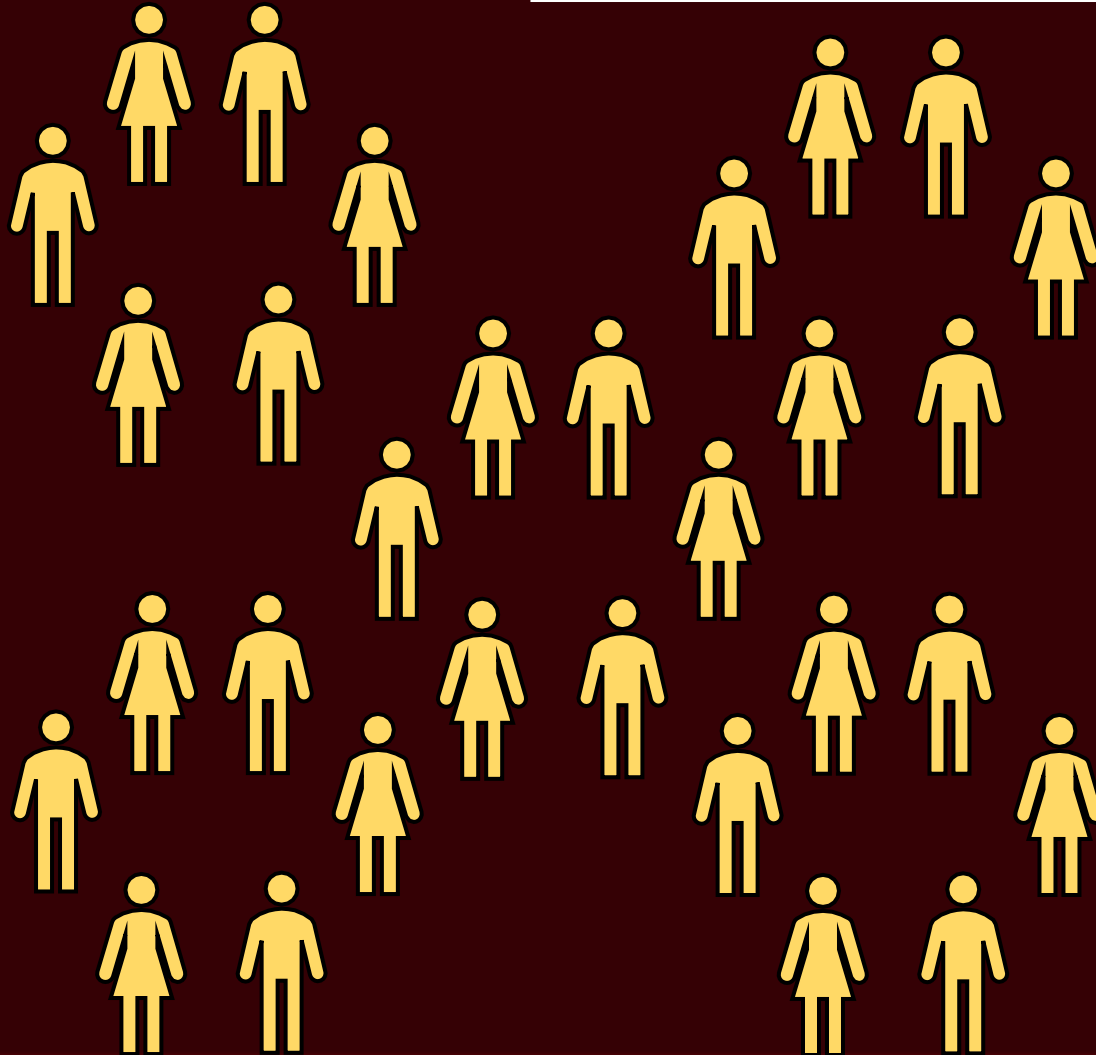
1. Nike – Just do it!

or

2. Should we be asking the question:

Why don't we want to?

# Introduction to God's Light



Co-workers

Church

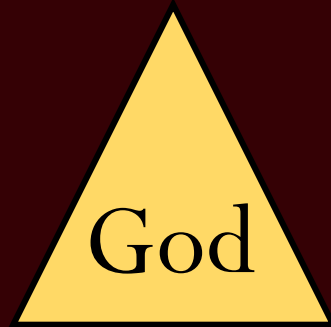
Members

Neighbors

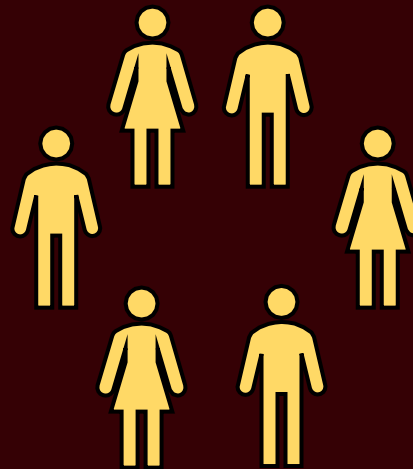
Friends

Family

# Introduction to God's Light



Life



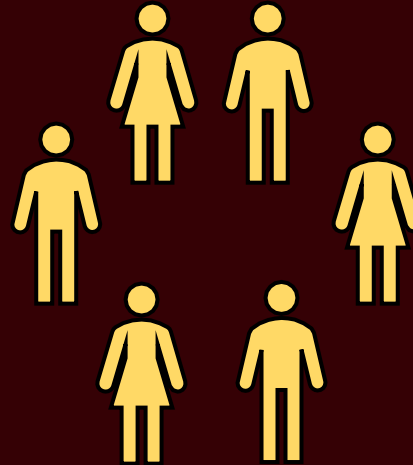
Introduction to God's Light

Matthew 5.16

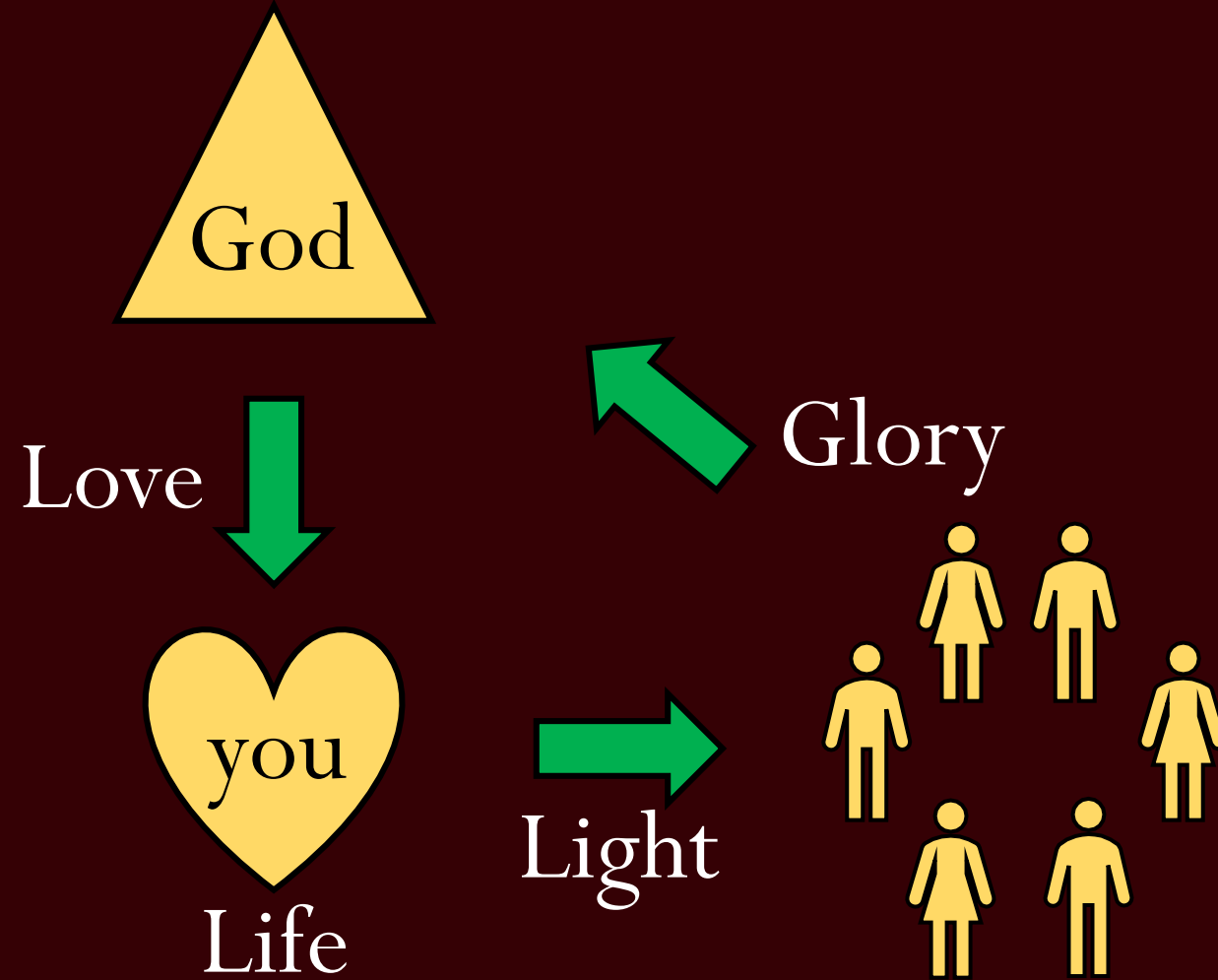
Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



Life

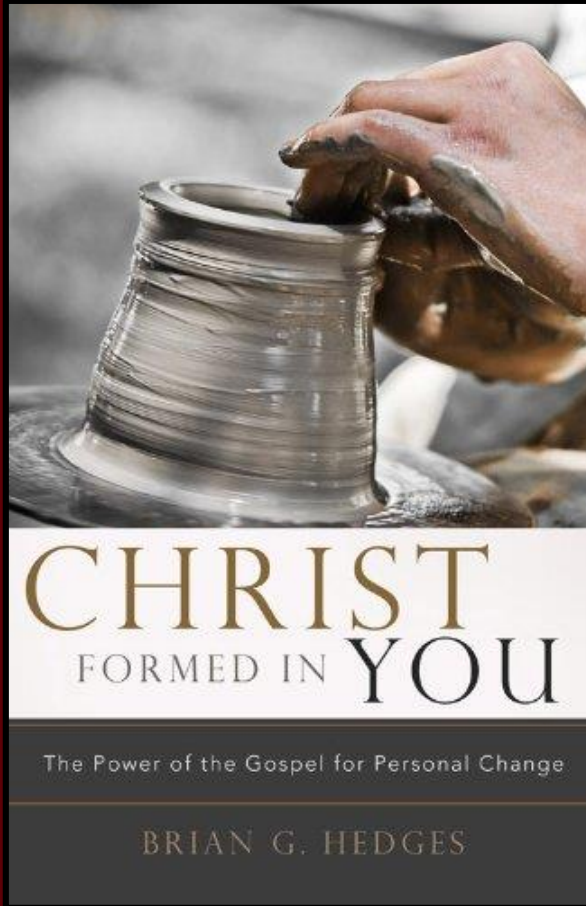


# Introduction to God's Light





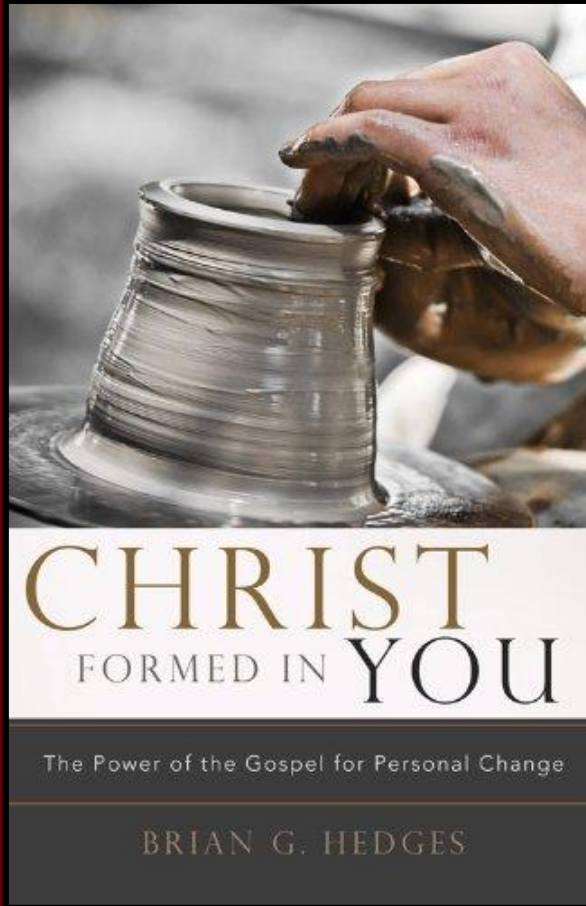
Introduction to God's Light



Christ Formed in You

*Brian Hedges*

## Introduction to God's Light



True Christianity is measured not by the breadth of your knowledge or the length of your prayers, but the depth of your love for others.

Introduction to God's Light

So, what wrong with me?  
Why don't I want to love people  
enough to shine the light of God  
into their lives?

Introduction to God's Light

# Disease 1:

**Darkness**

(we often veil God's Light with our sin)

Introduction to God's Light

# Darkness

# Introduction to God's Light

Darkness

## Introduction to God's Light

Disease: Darkness (we often veil God's Light with our sin)

**R<sub>x</sub>** : Grace and Mercy

Practical: Tim Keller – 7 min

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# Jeremiah 2

1. Personalize sin
2. Remember grace





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# Disease 2:

**Amnesia**

(we often forget who we are)

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# Amnesia

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# Introduction to God's Light

Amnesia

## Introduction to God's Light

Disease: Amnesia (we often forget who we are)

**R<sub>x</sub>** : Remember and Remind

Practical: First waking thought?

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*I am the thorn in Your crown but You love me anyway*

*I am the sweat from Your brow but You love me anyway*

*I am the nail in Your wrist but You love me anyway*

*I am Judas' kiss but You love me anyway.*

(Sidewalk Prophets)

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# Disease 3:

*Anxiety*

(we often fear losing God's love)

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# Anxiety

# Introduction to God's Light

Anxiety



## Introduction to God's Light

Disease: Anxiety (we often fear losing God's love)

**R<sub>x</sub>** : Rest in the Promises of God

Practical: Intentional time praying God's Word

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# Jerimiah 31.3

Glorious Father,  
you have **loved me with an everlasting love** -  
even and especially when I don't notice it.

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# Hebrews 13.5

Glorious Father,  
you promise to **never leave me or forsake me** -  
even and especially when I feel alone.

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# Matthew 11.28

Glorious Father,  
thank you for calling me into your presence  
even and especially when I labor and am  
heavy laden,  
and **thank you for your promised rest.**

Introduction to God's Light

What are you hoping God will do:

...in our country?

...in our community?

...in our church?

...in you?

An Introduction  
to God's Light

*Lift up the **light** of your face upon us, O LORD!*

*Psalm 4.6*