

Introduction

- Lesson text: [Jn. 3:19-21](#)
1. All month long we are examining the theme of “Clear Christianity.”
 2. Tonight, we will examine the closely related concept of being transparent.

I. Transparent Defined

1. The English word “transparent” only occurs once in the Bible ([Rev. 21:21](#)).
 - a. transparent (*diauges* G1307 adjective) “possessing the property of being able to be seen through, transparent, pure” (BDAG 238).
2. Transparent is defined as (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary):
 - a. “having the property of transmitting light without appreciable scattering so that bodies lying beyond are seen clearly.”
 - b. “fine or sheer enough to be seen through.”
 - c. “free from pretense or deceit: frank.”
 - d. “easily detected or seen through: obvious.”
 - e. “readily understood.”
 - f. “characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices synonym see clear.”
3. Connected with the concept of transparent is:
 - a. Honesty, being genuine, or sincere ([Jn. 1:45-47](#)).
 - b. Purity.
 - c. Truth.
 - d. Light.
 - e. Clarity.

II. Being Transparent Means Coming to the Light

1. Jesus made this point clear with Nicodemus ([Jn. 3:19-21](#)).
 - a. The light of God’s Word must be able to shine through us.
 - b. We cannot be transparent if we hide in the dark.
 - c. We can never hide from God anyway, so why try ([Ps. 139:1-16](#))?
 - d. Being transparent means we can echo the words of David ([Ps. 139:23-24](#)).
2. God’s Word is the mirror of the soul ([Jm. 1:21-25](#)).

- a. The law of liberty because it is perfect [complete; whole] is able to perfect us if we will allow it to ([Jm. 1:25](#); cf. [2 Tim. 3:16-17](#))!
3. God's Word renews the mind ([Rm. 12:1-2](#)).
 - a. renewing (*anakainosis* G342 noun) "a renewal, renovation, complete change for the better" (Thayer 38).
 - b. Though our outward man perishes, our inward man is renewed day by day ([2 Cor. 4:16-18](#)).

III. Being Transparent Means We Need Each Other

1. We need each other to speak truth ([Eph. 4:25](#)).
2. We need each other to love one another ([1 Pt. 1:22](#)).
 - a. unfeigned (*anypokritos* G505 adjective) means without hypocrisy [undisguised] and thus genuine or sincere.
3. We need each other to exhort one another daily ([Heb. 3:12-13](#)).
 - a. exhort (*parakaleo* G3870 verb, present, imperative) included in this word is admonishment, comfort, instruction, encouragement, and strengthening.
4. We need each other to provoke unto love and good works ([Heb. 10:24-25](#)).
 - a. provoke (*paroxysmos* G3948 noun) the idea is to agitate, irritate, or incite one another in a good way.
5. We need each other to confess our faults to one another and pray for one another ([Jm. 5:16](#)).
 - a. Being at odds with a brother or sister in Christ directly affects our worship ([Mt. 5:23-24](#)).
 - b. Praying for one another was common in the First Century and must be now ([Ac. 12:5](#); cf. [Rm. 15:30-31](#)).
6. We need each other to restore the overtaken and to bear one another's burdens ([Gal. 6:1-2](#); [Jm. 5:19-20](#)).
7. We need each other to do good to one another ([Gal. 6:10](#)).

Conclusion

1. We can all improve when it comes to being transparent.
2. Let us resolve right now to be more honest and truthful and to allow God's Word to refine us to be better.