

## SHINE LIKE STARS

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Philippians 2:14-16 *"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."*

### A Compelling Contrast

Christians have been called out of the dark world; Christ's light shines in and through us. As a result, we are different from those around us. We do not conform to the pattern of the world. We think differently, we act differently, we live differently. In the same way that stars in the night sky are attractive and compelling compared to the backdrop of the dark night sky, so also the difference Jesus makes in us is compelling to those still in darkness.

### How this Difference Looks

#### The World

Seeks Immediate Gratification  
 Pessimistic/Tearing Others Down  
 Promiscuous/Sex-saturated  
 Pleasure-seeking/Amusement-oriented  
 Superficial/Apathetic/Indifferent  
 Grudge-holding/Revenge-seeking/Violent  
 Arrogant/Self-interested

#### Christians

Practice Patient Hope  
 Encourage/Build Others Up  
 Value Self-control/Marital fidelity  
 Live with Purpose/Full of Joy  
 Seek what is Deep/Substantial/True  
 Extend Forgiveness/Compassion/Peace  
 Promote Humility/Self-giving Love