

If you have a cell phone, use a computer, a notebook, or spend any time in social media there is probably TMI, Too Much Information out there about you. Cell phone can track and keep a record of every place we go when our phone is with us. The websites we look at, the things we search for, the products we look at are all logged and used to generate the ads that pop up on your electronic devices. I don't spend any time in social media. But I'm amazed at the things that I hear people post. Some people put too much information about themselves in cyberspace where even when deleted or taken down, someone can discover it.

Some people think they do things on their electronic devices that no one will ever discover. They can send text messages or do searches that they don't want anyone else to know about. Normal people try to hide things from others. Not Normal people don't try to hide things because they are trying to live a life of integrity. How many politicians over the years have been busted for trying to cover up things that they have done instead of letting them come to light?

God calls us to be Not Normal people, to be people who don't conform to the ways of the world but are transformed and given a new life in Christ. Not Normal people know they are not perfect. They do know to admit when they have done something wrong, confess what they have done and ask to be forgiven.

Sin loves secrecy. How many things do people try to hide under the cover of darkness? Why else do people break into buildings or riot at night? Even Jesus enemies arrested Him under the cover of darkness so that the people who supported Jesus wouldn't know about it? Why else would they hold an illegal trial at night to condemn Jesus? Night courts were illegal in Israel.

Sin loves secrecy. All the lies we like to believe don't face any opposition in secrecy. Paul tells us, **"Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness."** (vs. 11) Just a few verses before in the same chapter Paul wrote, **"Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you."** (vs. 3) We're tempted to think that just a little bit of those kinds of things are not so bad, that they are only wrong or harmful in terms of dosage. That is a lie of darkness.

We know how lies can get out of hand. You start by telling one "Little White Lie." That can lead to another bigger lie until you have a long string of lies to try to cover up something you should have told the truth about in the first place. Cover up and lies don't work. Paul tells us, **"But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them."** (vs. 13)

What's done in the dark doesn't stay in the dark. It is both tragic and sad that the Catholic Church has once again been exposed for trying to cover up the sinful actions of some of their priests. It is tragic and sad when any church leader has an affair and then tries to cover it up. Unfortunately when these kinds of things come to light, they not only expose the sins of those involved, but also the hypocrisy of trying to cover them up or deny them.

You think we would learn. But do we? How many times have you been caught in a lie to try to cover up something you did that was wrong? It doesn't do any good to lie to the officer that pulls you over for speeding and asks if you know how fast you were driving? The officer had you on radar before you were pulled over. It doesn't do any good to lie to your boss that you were working on your computer when all he or she has to do is look at your computer's history to know you were doing something else. It doesn't do any good to try to lie to God either because He knows everything we've thought, said or done.

It may take some time for your eyes to adjust when you walk out of a dark room into a bright light. But our eyes do adjust. It may take some time to adjust to living in the light of God's Word. But we need to learn how to do that because God's light gives clarity. The light of God's law exposes our sin. If we don't know God's Word, how are we going to know what is right and what is wrong? Why do you think there is so much debate in our nation today about what is right and wrong? It is because too many people do not know or accept God's moral commands. We are like the people of Israel during the time of the Judges. The book of Judges (21:25) tells us, **"All the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."**

You and I cannot live that way. God has given us His Word. He tells us what is right and what is wrong. He has given us a new life in Christ. That means we should not follow the lead of those who reject God and His Word. Paul tells us in Romans (12:2), **"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."**

This does not mean that we should retreat from the world. We can't do that. But we can bring the light of God's Word, the power of God's forgiveness, the life changing power of God's Spirit into the world around us.

God's light is going to expose our sins. We shouldn't try to lie about them or try to cover them up. Instead we should admit our sins to those we have hurt and ask them to forgive us. We should tell them the good news that we don't have to try to be perfect people. We live in God's grace and rely on his love and forgiveness.

It also means that we can try to address the things that we see that are wrong in the world around us. We shouldn't just protest about things that are wrong. We should work to make things better. We should be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today. Instead of just complaining that families are falling apart, this past week some of you helped as we held a back to school party for Foster Kids who come from families with problems. We did something to help those kids. Instead of feeling sorry for people with disabilities, this past week some of you helped with the adaptive baseball, sailing or wheelchair basketball to give those people the chance to do something they may not be able to do otherwise.

Instead of complaining about an annoying neighbor or coworker, maybe you can talk with them to find out what is happening in their world. Maybe they have a problem you can help them with or maybe they just need a friend to talk with. We never know what we can do until we try.

There is no such things as TMI, too much information, when it comes to Jesus. Everyone needs to know the truth about Jesus who said this about Himself, “God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17) Let the light of God’s love shine through you for others to see. It may not be normal. But it is certainly needed.