



#1:

Main point: The church is called out of the world to shine in the world to win some in the world to life.

#2:

"In other words, Christian contentment stands out in a selfish, whining, self-pitying world. As Christians . . . there must be no trace of self-pity, but a life characterized by sincere gratitude and godly praise."

D.A. Carson, Philippians: Basics for Believers, p. 63

#3:

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

#4:

"The church is at the center of the mission of God as his primary vehicle for advancing the kingdom and declaring the gospel—not as a corporation, but as a people. Curiously...the modern church relies little on its people to progress the gospel. We put significantly more faith in technology and programs, and expect little out of the members of our churches. Now don't get me wrong, I see the value in leveraging technology. Technology has been used by God from the arch to the Gutenberg printing press, and I am all for the strategic use of technology. But we should remember that God has made us in his image for a purpose. The greatest resource the church has is not its technology or its wealth. It is the people themselves, image bearers of God, purchased by the blood of Jesus, to be sent to proclaim the gospel through which they have been redeemed."

Brad House, Community, p. 48

#5:

"The church lies at the very center of the eternal purpose of God. It is not a divine afterthought. It is not an accident of history. On the contrary, the church is God's new community. For His purpose, conceived in a past eternity, being worked out in history, and to be perfected in a future eternity, is not just to save isolated individuals and so perpetuate our loneliness but rather to build His church, that is, to call out of the world a people for His own glory."

Sinclair Ferguson, quoted by Brad House, Community, p. 45