

# Know, Grow, & Show

*Matthew 5:13-16*

## INTRODUCTION

We live in a day and time where religion, the world, politics, and Christian positions on these matters are all confusing and running together then bouncing off in different directions.

When I look at the message that Christianity is sending the world I am confused and I know Christianity. I can't imagine how confusing it would be to be a non-believer searching and trying to make sense of it all.

We as the church must evaluate who we are and what we are doing so that our actions in the world actually coincide with our stated identity. If we are going to call ourselves the church, shouldn't we look like what the Church is supposed to look like?

### **Charles Swindoll**

'We really shouldn't look like a church.' I've heard that so much I want to vomit. 'Why?' I ask. 'Do you want your bank to look like a bank? Do you want your doctor's office to look like a doctor's office, or would you prefer your doctor to dress like a clown?'

Jesus told His followers that we are to be Salt and Light which are reflections of who He is in our world and desires to be through His followers. Let's look at our text this morning.

### *Matthew 5:13-16*

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men.

“You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

### **Salt**

Salt was a preservative for meat in the days before refrigeration. Christ through this metaphor is stating that the life of the Church is meant to preserve societies and cultures through its Image Bearing values. It was also meant as a spice, and as believers we should be the spice, that gives the world its flavor. We are not to use our saltiness to burn in the wounds of others who are hurting, but to preserve the life God gave them through healing. This is the repercussion of the Jesus life in any society if only Christians would live it.

## **Light**

Light is used to illuminate paths that have been overtaken by darkness. Jesus called His followers to be lights in a dark world to illuminate the way to Him for those trapped in darkness. We are not to use the light we have been given to burn people's eyes out in interrogation, but rather to lovingly show them the way out of darkness and pray they follow. This is the repercussion of the Jesus life in any society if only Christians would live it.

## **I. To Know Christ Better**

### **James Robison**

Don't hold on to religion and miss the joy of knowing Jesus.

### **Brennan Manning**

Sheer scholarship alone cannot reveal to us the gospel of grace. We must never allow the authority of books, institutions, or leaders to replace the authority of KNOWING Jesus Christ personally and directly. When the religious views of others interpose between us and the primary experience of Jesus as the Christ, we become unconvicted and unpersuasive travel agents handing out brochures to places we have never visited.

### **Blaise Pascal**

Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance because he shows us both God and our own wretchedness.

### ***Psalm 46:10***

“Stop your fighting—and know that I am God,

### **J.I. Packer, author of *Knowing God***

“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord.”

### **J.I. Packer**

“The healthy Christian is not necessarily the extrovert, ebullient Christian, but the Christian who has a sense of God's presence stamped deep on his soul, who trembles at God's word, who lets it dwell in him richly by constant meditation upon it, and who tests and reforms his life daily in response to it.”

## **II. To Grow in Christ as His Disciple**

### ***John 15:1-5***

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.

### ***II Corinthians 12:9-10***

But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, catastrophes, persecutions, and in pressures, because of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## **III. To Show the World the Life of Jesus**

### ***Psalms 53:1-3***

There is no one who does good. God looks down from heaven on the human race to see if there is one who is wise, one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become corrupt. There is no one who does good, not even one.

### ***Galatians 2:19-20***

For through the law I have died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

### **Saint Patrick**

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **N.T. Wright**

Our task as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to a world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to a world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to a world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.