

# **Be Salt & Light!**

Matthew 5:13-16

**David Alan** - "Christians are called to be **salt and light**, not sugar and shade!"

## **David Kinnaman, unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity... and Why It Matters**

"Being salt and light demands two things: we practice purity in the midst of a fallen world and yet we live in proximity to this fallen world. If you don't hold up both truth in tension, you invariably become useless and separated from the world God loves."

### **Matthew 5:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## **I. Preserve to Save, don't Burn to Shame (13)**

A. Salt is meant to preserve and add flavor. It is meant to be an addition not a subtraction.

B. How many Christians have used their salt to burn the wounds of others through shame?

C. As believers Christ teaches us to preserve what is His, and that the Christian life adds flavor to the experience of life and culture.

D. How many have experienced a boring and bland faith?

E. No salt makes life bland, too much salt turns us into persimmon faces. The Christian life is about adding flavor and bringing the flavor of life out.

F. As salt excites the tastes buds, so the Christian life should excite the heart of every human.

### **Mahatma Gandhi**

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

**Sunday Adelaja**

“Religiosity has deprived us of our intimacy with God.”

## **II. Illuminate to Influence, don't Intimidate to Interrogate (14-15)**

- A. We as Christians are to be lights in the darkness.
- B. Light used in the right way gives hope.
- C. Light used in the wrong way gives the “deer in the headlights” reaction. It makes people freeze up and not know which way to go. It makes people want to run and hide.
- D. A flickering light is not much good either because it gives hope temporarily and encourages people to come toward it only to feel lost again when it goes out. Are you a flickering light for Christ?

### **Mother Teresa**

Words that do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.

### **Martin Luther King Jr.**

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

## **III. Redirect, Reflect & Reveal (16)**

- A. **Redirection** – As we live out God's salt and light we are to help redirect people in a new direction and a new experience. We are to help change the course of their lives.
- B. **Reflection** – As an essential part of being human, we are to reflect God's truth and love into the world. People should sense the character of God in us.
- C. **Revelation** – Our lives should reveal who Christ is and point them to Him.

### **1 John 2:5-6**

But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

### **Corrie ten Boom**

“Let God's promises shine on your problems.”

## Conclusion:

### SALT OF THE EARTH

- **Preservative** – A key feature of salt is to serve as an antiseptic, preventing the degeneration of food. Antiseptic can work only if only the salt is rubbed into the meat. As Christians, we must be *in* the world, facing what the world offers but not be *of* the world embracing its worldly values and ethics. As a moral antiseptic, Christians will benefit the secular society by preventing the corruption of society in the moral decay.
- **Flavor** – Without salt, the food becomes rather boring, tasteless, and insipid. Likewise, without the Good News and Christian behaviors, there is no true flavor in the world. No true joy can be accomplished without perfect flavor that Christians provide.
- **White** – The white color of salt symbolizes its purity. Christians are to live holy, pure, different lives. Christians should glory in our difference. An intentional choice needs to be made in our daily decisions in our life pursuing the truth and virtues of Jesus Christ. Paul proclaims in Romans 12, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world
- **Fertilizer** – As salt enables the growth of plants, Christians likewise need to foster the growth of that which is good in the world. Christians may engage in their calling whichever realm (read more about 7 Mountains of Influence) it may belong, and they must champion good and godly causes that promote the good of humanity
- **Thirst** – As you consume salt, you become more thirsty. Likewise, we as Christians ought to cause people enable an unquenchable thirst for the Gospel in the people in this world. By exemplifying the very attributes of Lord Jesus Christ, people will start noticing our different behaviors and ask, “Why are you different? Why are you filled with so much patience, peace, and joy?”

### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

In Greek, the verse reads, “You and you alone are the light of the world.” Shining is not optional for light. It is a key feature of light. Likewise, we as Christians must understand the function of light.

- **Expose Reality of Evil** – light will make all the wickedness and rottenness visible. The Bible will help you expose the wretchedness of this world. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word<sup>1</sup>s is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- **Enlightens us to God** – the light of the world will open the blind. We think being blind is bound my physicality. God clearly points out we are spiritually blind. Our sinful nature naturally is inclined to relishing the darkness within us.
- **Shows the Way Out** – light points to the way out of the darkness. The tunnel of hopelessness, meaninglessness, death, and hell is illuminated with the light of the world. Christians must provide an unobstructed view of the cross to those in whom we come in contact with. The exit is toward Jesus Christ, our salvation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://paulsohn.org/the-secrets-of-living-as-a-salt-and-light/>