



May 27, 2026 | Pastor Clay Carlson

Salt & Light: The Christian's Influence

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

I. The Christian Is _____

A. Salt adds _____.

Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt..."

Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth..."

Proverbs 16:24 "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."

- Salt changes the taste of what it touches. A Christian's words and spirit ought to leave a good taste for Christ.

Application: Do your words add grace or bitterness?

B. Salt _____.

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world;"

- Salt was used to preserve and slow corruption. A Christian should be a preserving influence in a corrupt world.

Application: Do you move people toward God or toward compromise?

C. Salt must make _____.

John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."

John 17:18 "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

- Salt does no good if it stays in the shaker. Christians must have contact without compromise.

Application: Who are you influencing for Christ?

D. Salt is not always _____.

Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

- **Salt may not always be visible, but its effect can still be tasted. Some Christian influence is quiet but faithful.**

Application: Do not despise quiet faithfulness.

E. Salt can lose its _____.

Mark 9:50 “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it?”

Luke 14:34-35 “Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?”

1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection...”

- **A Christian cannot lose salvation, but he can lose his testimony, zeal, usefulness, and influence.**

Application: Have you lost your savour?

II. The Christian Is _____

Matthew 5:14 “Ye are the light of the world.”

A. Light is meant to be _____.

Philippians 2:15 “...among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”

1 Peter 2:12 “Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles...”

Acts 4:13 “...and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

- **Christianity was never meant to be invisible. We should not show off, but we should not hide who we are.**

Application: Do people know you are a Christian?

B. Light shows the _____.

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness...”

Psalms 119:105 “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Acts 26:18 “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light...”

- **Light helps people know where to go. A believer should show others the way to salvation and Christian living.**

Application: Are you helping people find the way to Christ?

C. Light dispels _____.

Ephesians 5:8 “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:”

Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

1 John 1:7 *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light...”*

- **When light enters, darkness has to move. A Christian should push back darkness by holy living, truth, righteousness, and good works.**
- **Application: Does your life push back darkness or blend in with it?**

D. Light must not be _____.

Luke 8:16 *“No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.”*

Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

Matthew 10:32 *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”*

- **A hidden light defeats its purpose. God did not save us so we could hide our faith.**

Application: What is hiding your light?

E. Light should bring _____ to God.

Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *“...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

John 15:8 *“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...”*

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...”*

- **Our light is not meant to make people praise us. It is meant to make people glorify our Father.**

Application: Do your good works point people to God or to yourself?

Conclusion

Jesus said, “Ye are the salt of the earth” and “Ye are the light of the world.”

Salt affects taste.

Light affects sight.

Can people sense that you are a Christian?

Are you influencing this world for Christ?