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*“You are the SALT of the earth.” – Matthew 5:13a*

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## **Four Characteristics of Salty Salt**

1. Salt \_\_\_\_\_ — **We Resist Corruption**
  - *Salt cannot preserve what it never touches.*
2. Salt \_\_\_\_\_ — **We Make Christ Attractive**
  - *The purpose of salt is not to draw attention to the salt, but to transform what it touches.*
3. Salt Creates \_\_\_\_\_ — **We Awaken Spiritual Hunger**
  - *Salt creates thirst; Jesus satisfies it.*
4. Salt Must \_\_\_\_\_ **Distinct** — **We Cannot Become Diluted**
  - *We cannot influence the world by becoming indistinguishable from it.*

**Jesus did not remove us from a decaying world.  
He scattered them throughout it as salt.**

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*“But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” – Matthew 5:13b*

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## **Four Characteristics of Adulterated Salt**

1. **Dilution** — Too Much of \_\_\_\_\_
  - *We become diluted when fitting in becomes more important than being faithful.*
2. **Absorption** — \_\_\_\_\_ **In What Surrounds Us**
  - *You can live in the culture without allowing the culture to live in you.*
3. **Mixture** — \_\_\_\_\_ **With Impurities.**
  - *Syncretism weakens distinctiveness.*
4. **Leaching** — **Diminishes What** \_\_\_\_\_ **Salt**
  - *The greatest danger is looking Christian while losing what makes our witness distinct.*

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**Compromise → Conformity → Divided Allegiance → Lost Distinctiveness**

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**Jesus does not call us to isolate from the world.  
He calls us to remain distinct while living close enough to influence it.**

## Reflection and Discussion

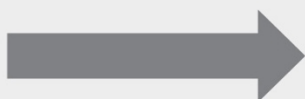
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1. Where has God placed me to be “salt” right now? Am I close enough to people to actually influence them?
  2. Does my life make Jesus attractive and create spiritual hunger in others—or merely draw attention to me?
  3. Where am I most tempted to fit in rather than remain faithful?
  4. What am I absorbing from the culture that may be weakening my distinctiveness as a follower of Christ?
  5. Have I allowed any compromise to become conformity or divided allegiance?
  6. What distinctly Christian quality is most evident in my life right now? Which one is in danger of being lost?
  7. Where do I need to become more distinct without becoming more distant?
  8. If the people closest to me followed my example, would they become more like Jesus?
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

# August

**Lead A Small Group**  
Scan here to sign up



SUNDAY  
30

**SMALL GROUP SUNDAY**

SEPT  
6

**SMALL GROUP CYCLE BEGINS**

**New Sermon Series starts August 30th  
“Love Killers”**