

CHRISTIANS AND.....THE WORLD: "Salt and Light"

[Read Matthew 5:13-16]

1. Jesus says that Christians are *supposed* to have a similar effect in our culture that salt has in meat, and light has with darkness. The key to this is that we are *supposed* to have this effect, but He also warns that may not be the case (salt that is not salty, and a light that is under a basket). In your life, what are some of the things that keep you from having the effect in your culture that you know God wants you to have? Specifically: What are some things that might "dilute your saltiness."
2. The metaphor of salt implies a connectedness or engagement in culture. In what ways do you see God *already* working through Christians to be Salt and Light in our culture? Can you identify an area of your life where God is pressing you to be more "salty?"
3. In the Sermon, Chris discussed how a small group setting is the best place to discuss what it is practically going to look like to be "salt and light," in your particular family, work setting, sports team, or community organization. Spend some time discussing how you think God is leading you to implement Matthew 5:13-16
4. Chris discussed being "purposefully, intelligently, and Biblically different" than the prevailing culture. What does this look like in your setting, and what are some "next steps" for you and your family as you think about living as faithful Christians in 2019?
5. In the Sermon Chris discussed "Mission Drift," and how (especially after 10 years), organizations tend to shift from their original mission, and often get off course. If you look at your life, and your overall mission, is it in line with the mission that Jesus has given his followers? What are some things that have a tendency to pull us "off course?"
6. The final point of the sermon was a challenge to "listen" to the cries of our culture in order to discern ways that we can enter, and show the love of Christ to people who desperately need it. Chris mentioned the popular song by Shawn Mendes as one example. As a group, can you identify ways in which our culture is "crying out," for help? Think of as many examples as you can of our culture "crying out" for help, then spend time in prayer asking God to show you, your small group, our church, and the global church to enter into the lives of people who may look "ok," but who are deeply broken, and hurting on the inside.