

1 Inside Your Circle of Influence!
Living Life Sermon Series!
How You Can Be The Salt of the Earth and
A Guiding Light to a Lost and Dying world!
Matthew 5:13 **August 6, 2017**

Like any Three Part Harmony; **Influence**, **Inspiration**, and **Initiative** work best together to create an atmosphere that is pleasing to the ear of the hearer! Over the next three weeks we will examine how these **Three Principles** can interact together to drive how you Live Life to it's Fullest! This week we will take a look at **The Inside of Your Circle of Influence!**

When you are Living Your Life to its Fullest You will have a Positive Effect Over **"The Inside of Your Circle of Influence!"** (**Matthew 5:13**) "**You are the salt of the earth,**

I. **Negative Influence** (**13**) but if salt has **lost its taste**, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Jesus is not talking about losing your salvation, Born again Christians cannot lose their salvation: **John 10:27:28** My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and **they will never perish-- ever!** No one will snatch them out of My hand.

Even though as a Christian you cannot lose your salvation you can lose your value and effectiveness through the effect of sin in your life which will

cause you to become tasteless and you no longer Thirst for righteousness and you in turn lose your Influence to stimulate others to Thirst for Righteousness who are within your on Circle of Influence.

- A. **This happens most often when you Hang around the wrong people: 1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: "**Bad company ruins good morals.**"
- B. **Losing your Saltiness also comes when you Drift Away from Church Hebrews 2:1** We must, therefore, **pay even more attention to what we have heard,** so that we will not drift away.
- C. **Losing your Saltiness also comes when you Pursue Worldly Desires 1 Peter 2:11** Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.

A Peanuts cartoon, showed Peppermint Patty talking to Charlie Brown. She said, "**Guess what, Chuck. The first day of school, and I got sent to the principal's office. It was your fault, Chuck.**" He said, "**My fault? How could it be my fault? Why do you say everything is my fault?**" She said, "**You're my friend, aren't you, Chuck? You should have been a better influence on me.**"

Who are your role models?

Who do you hang out with?

II. **Positive Influence (13)** "You are the salt of the earth,

- A. **Salt in the Scriptures** is said to be A symbol of a **Binding Covenant (Leviticus 2:13)** Season all your grain offerings with salt to remind you of God's **eternal covenant**. Never forget to **add salt** to your grain offerings.
- B. **Salt is Also said to Be a Healing and Cleansing Aid (2 Kings 2:20)** "Bring me a new bowl," he said, "and **put salt in it.**" So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went out to the spring and threw the salt into it, saying, "This is what the LORD says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.'"
- C. **Salt is Considered a Stimulant to the Appetite (Job 6:6)** Don't people **complain about unsalted food**? Does anyone want the tasteless white of an egg?
- D. **Salt is Known to be A Preventive of Decay (Luke 14:34-35)** "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Salt, has this vital purpose which is probably what the **Lord had in mind**-it stops decay. When Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth", He meant that all of His disciples were to **serve as preservatives**, stopping the moral decay in our sin infected world.

When Jesus spoke these words the disciples knew exactly what He meant! (Salt preserved meat)

E. **Salt also has the Ability to be a: Promoter of Peace (Mark 9:50)** Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? **You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other.**"

The work of The **Word and The Spirit** produced Godly Character, enabling a person to act as a preservative in society. Hence Believers have the ability to **Preserve the Peace.**

F. **Salt Plays a Vital Role in Being a Stimulant to our Testimony (Matthew 5:13)** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Salt both preserves food and enhances its flavor. Pure Salt cannot lose its effectiveness, but the salt that is common around the Dead Sea is **contaminated with gypsum** and other materials and may have a flat taste or be ineffective as a preservative. Such mineral salts were useful for little more than keeping a footpath free of vegetation.

As Believers we need to become more like **Pure Salt** in order to maintain full effectiveness of our personal testimony. Not allowing the contamination of The World to infiltrate our lives making our Testimony Ineffective.

G. Salt is an Essential part of Believers having an: Evidence of Grace (Colossians 4:6) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

As Believers we are to Speak what is Helpful to Others: **Ephesians 4:29-31** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is **helpful for building others up according to their needs**, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ **Get rid of all** bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Grace not Gossip! Gossip Destroys Unity!

What does God think about Gossipers?

Romans 1:29-31 They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.

Just because you are the **Bearer of Knowledge** doesn't mean you should be the **Sharer of that Knowledge**.

Grace not Gripping! Gossip Destroys Unity!

The **Believers Speech** should act not only as a Blessing to others, but as a purifying influence

within the decaying society of the World! Stop Complaining about, & Condemning the world!

John 3:16-17 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For **God did not send His Son** into the world that He might **condemn the world**, but that the world might be saved through Him.

One reason I took so long in Believing in Jesus was the Hypocrites in the Church! But I finally realized it's not about me and them! It's about **me and Jesus!** And that's when I accepted Christ!

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should **restore such a person with a gentle spirit**, watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted.

As you consider how you're **Living Life** today, can you honestly say that your life is **like salt** in the world? There is a tremendous need for every Child of God to be all that God wants them to be in these days.

We have seen enough falsehood, hypocrisy and **weak living** to do us, and the world, for a lifetime. You need to be about the business of **purifying, preserving, penetrating, pleasing** and **promoting** so that the Lord can use **Your life** and **Your testimony** for **His Glory**. God help us to be **Salty Christians**.

To be a Salty Christian is to be a **Genuine Christian**.

Praise Team Takes the Platform