

## "Salt and Light" Matthew 5:13-16

Why are we here? What is our purpose on earth? Certainly not to have fun - there's way too much sin and brokenness and suffering in this world to buy that lie! Through two metaphors, Jesus our king reveals His purpose for our time on earth: to be the salt and the light of the world. But salt is only effective if it remains distinctively salty, and light is only effective if it's held up in view of those who live in darkness. So the goal for our church, for our kids, and for ourselves is to live lives that are both distinctly Christ-centered and fully engaged with the unbelieving world around us so that all may come to know and glorify God.

### 1. **Be Salt**

- Salt in the ancient world
  - *A highly-valued necessity; source of great good*
  - *But could lose it's distinctive "saltiness"*
- How to retain our distinctive flavor:
  - *By practicing the counter-cultural Sermon on the Mount*

Romans 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

### 2. **Be Light**

- Implies a world in darkness
- How to be useful light:
  - *Know the One True Light*

John 1:9-10

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John 12:36

"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

- *Radiate His Light*
  - through good deeds (Sermon on the Mount)

- done in the name of God (to His glory)
- in the sight of unbelievers

#### Application

- Where have I conformed to this world's values and practices?
- How could I be more visible as a light?
- Am I helping my kids become BOTH salt and light?