

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

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Matthew 5:13-16

What would this world be like if there were no Christians? There would be no Gospel music or Gospel TV to provide a balance in media. Where would people run to when they need prayer? There would be no churches, sanctuaries, or safe places. There would be no outreach to help those in need in our communities. Can you imagine what your community, or places of employment would be like if you didn't show up? You don't really understand who you are in Christ and how valuable you are to the world.

Salt and light are common substances in our world today. In the Bible days, salt was considered to be very valuable. If you were salt you were a cut above everyone else. **John 8:12** Anyone who follows Jesus as a disciple doesn't have to walk in darkness again. You never have to walk in ignorance, failure, disappointment, or fear again. You can walk in victory. By His spirit He allows us to walk in the light with Him. Jesus said emphatically, "You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world." He made this statement to those who had turned their lives over to him; those who followed him. If you are a follower of Jesus, you can't be like everyone else. You were chosen before the foundations of the earth. This is your Father's world and you have been charged to get it on track. For that reason, you can't just sit back and watch this world go to Hell.

Salt is used as a preservative. If not used on certain foods, the food can spoil. Salt and light are also symbolic of purity. If salt loses its saltiness how does it regain its saltiness? If we lose our saltiness or become diluted, it is because we have become complacent. We have conformed to the ways of this world. Don't become so well adjusted with your culture that you don't even notice the bad things going on around you. Don't become so well adjusted that you cannot speak out against wrong anymore. **Romans 12:2** What kinds of conversations happen when you are just chillin' with your friends? What kind of music do you listen to? What kinds of movies do you watch? You can't just become so adjusted that you don't recognize what you are taking into your spirit. We are just allowing Satan room to move in and take control.

If we are going to act like them, think like them, and dress like them how are we going to transform the present world into the kingdom of God? We need to set a new standard for looking, talking, and loving like Christians in the world. People are watching you. They want to see if you have the patience and love that Christians are supposed to have. The way to have power, control, and authority is to be cool, calm, and collected. Give them a model of dignity and grace. Salt influences and brings out the flavor of food. The same goes with you. You have influence because you have authority. People are watching to see how to get through their own situations. You want them to see that it is cool to be a Christian.

How can you have positive influence in a negative world? Salt is so powerful and so potent that it only takes a dash of it in food. Salt is inconspicuous but light is to be seen. Light brings knowledge, understanding, and clarity. It exposes darkness. If all Christians were to leave this world, there would be nothing but darkness. You bring light wherever you go. People who are weary and torn because of their responsibilities and pressures are looking for a ray of light to see that there is still hope. The light within you helps people find their way. The light has to be piercing so that people can see it no matter what's going on in their lives.

There are all kinds of lights. You have to display whatever kind of light you are. The light of Christ shines through our personality. God is calling you to be who you are through your personality. First you have to know who are and whose you are. A room should light up when you walk in. Feed the hungry, witness to someone on the street, talk to someone who is troubled, etc. Plant a seed. You can't be too busy, or too preoccupied, or too caught up in your own stuff. You must be available because you never know when God will provide a divine opportunity. Tell them how God kept you. Tell them how He delivered you. Somebody needs to hear. When you allow your good works to speak for you, He is uplifted. You are the salt of the earth and light of the world. Let your light shine. Don't let Satan blow it out. Let it shine so that men, women, boys and girls may see. It only took twelve people to change the world. Can you imagine what this world would be like if we let our light so shine as God intended for us to do?

Peace

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