

What Does the Local Church Have to Do With Missions?

Matthew 5:13-16

(Black Bibles p. 810; Children's Bibles p. 1163)

This is our second Sunday in a six-week series on Missions & Outreach. Today we focus on the role of a local church, like our own New Life Glenside. Our passage is Matthew 5:13-16.

“You are the salt of the earth” = A **Plural Public Preservative**

- Plural: “You” is plural. *Youse.* 😊
- Public: “of the earth” hints at what is coming, in verses 14-16, something not hidden
- Preservative: salt preserves and gives flavor
 - For example, preserving peace in relationships. “Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.” (Mark 9:50)

“You are the light of the world.” = You produce a **Culture of Charity and Conversion**

- Culture
 - A “city,” not just a fellowship.
 - A *counter-cultural* culture. An alternative city-- yet present within the world.
 - “Why then does Jesus call us a “city” rather than just a “fellowship”? Christians are called to be an *alternate* city within every earthly city, an alternate human *culture* within every human culture, to show how sex, money, and power can be used in non-destructive ways and be re-shaped by the gospel.” – Tim Keller

- Charity
 - “see your good works...” A witness in both word *and deed*.
- Conversion
 - “...they may...give glory to your Father in heaven.”

How does this apply to our Sunday morning worship service?

How does this connect to the Lord's Supper?

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Read the passage, Matthew 5:13-16. How does Jesus specifically relate his followers to salt and light? Read carefully to see exactly what Jesus' points of comparison are.
2. *Salt*. Can you give an example of when a follower of Christ today proved to be “salt” in the way Jesus meant in their workplace, neighborhood, family, or somewhere in society?
3. *Light*. Can you give an example of when a fellow believer's “good works” was instrumental in another person coming to see and know God (conversion)?
4. Think through your life in this world. How can you be salt and light? Give an application for each.