



The Difficult Calling of Salt and Light

MATTHEW 5:13-16





You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:13-16

Christ's call to be salt and light means that the Church *by nature* is counter-cultural.

This is not an easy calling to fulfill!

Our world constantly finds ways to devalue, dehumanize, and even destroy the people that God made, that He loves. Satan also works with our sinful desires to draw people away from God, to trap them in lies.

But when we value what God does, we can't stand by and see that happen. Our hearts are moved. Sooner or later, we are compelled to speak, and to act.

**"SILENCE IN THE
FACE OF EVIL IS
ITSELF EVIL: GOD
WILL NOT HOLD
US GUILTLESS.
NOT TO SPEAK IS
TO SPEAK. NOT TO
ACT IS TO ACT."**

**- Dietrich
Bonhoeffer**



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Values



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For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

- Psalm 139:13-16

Your hands shaped me and made me...

Remember that you molded me like clay.

Did you not... clothe me with skin and flesh

and knit me together with bones and sinews?

You gave me life and showed me kindness,

and in your providence watched over my spirit.

- Job 10:8-12

If the Church is to be salt and light in a dying and dark world, it *must* speak to issues like this – issues that call into question the very worth of people that God has made in His own image.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. *Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- Matthew 5:14-16

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Ephesians 6:12

