



Part 3: Salt and Light

Introduction

When you think of the *church*, what is the first word that comes to mind? If you were to ask your neighbor or your co-worker, what would be the first words that come to their minds? In other words, what is the reputation of the *church*? What is the reputation of your local church? More importantly, how can we begin to repair the reputation of the local church?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the reputation of the church in your community? If you were to ask your neighbors or co-workers, how would they describe the church? What is the first thing that comes to *your* mind when you think of the word “Christian”?
2. We may be aware of local churches that have had a positive influence in their communities. So why do the church and Christians tend to suffer from a poor reputation in the minds of most people?
3. Read Matthew 5:13–14. Jesus calls his followers “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” What are some characteristics of salt and light that apply to a Christian’s character?
4. What does it look like to contribute rather than consume when it comes to church and faith?
5. How can you let your faith face outward rather than inward... and grow in your love toward others?
6. Inspiring people to follow Jesus will require Jesus followers to begin to repair the reputation of the church. What are some examples of choosing conviction over convenience that you can apply to your life?

Changing Your Mind

You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13–16