Let's Talk About The Church: Week 2 The Church Is Salt and Light

Key Verses: Matthew 5: 13-16

Key Idea: The Church is the only group on the planet that has the *responsibility* to make *clear* the Kingdom of God and bring *goodness* into the world.

The Church has options when relating to the world:

1. _____

Those who take this approach do so either out of _____ or

2. _____ and _____ -

- 3. Missional _____ -
 - This approach is what Jesus desires from us.
 - Matthew 5: 13-16

Two Key Images:

A. Salt-

B. Light-

Therefore, Christians should ask:

- 1. Do the people I come in contact with clearly understand God's love?
- 2. Are they better off for knowing me?

"So why don't we Christians have a more wholesome effect on society? We look at deteriorating trends around us. We see social injustice, racial conflict, violence in the streets, corruption in high places, sexual promiscuity, and the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Who is to blame? Our habit is to blame everybody except ourselves. But let me put it in a different way.

If the house is dark at night, there is no sense in blaming the house for its darkness. That is what happens when the sun goes down, The question to ask is: where is the light?

Again, if the meat goes bad and becomes inedible, there is no sense in blaming the meat for its decay. That is what happens when the bacteria are left free to breed. The question to ask is: where is the salt?

Similarly, if society becomes corrupt (like a dark night or stinking fish), there is no sense in blaming society for its corruption. That is what happens when human evil is unchecked and unrestrained. The question to ask is: where is the church? Where is the salt and light of Jesus?."

-John Stott