

Sermon Series Title: "The Church of God"

Sermon Series Summary: The Church of God is the people of God throughout the ages, redeemed by Jesus Christ. We're going to take a look at who we are and who we are called to be as the church of God. More specifically, we see that who we are is directly connected to whose we are in Christ.

"We are in our "The Church of God" sermon series, and we see that we are defined not by who we are but whose we are as the Church."

Call: Luke 1:51-52

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

Title: "The Identity of the Church"

Next Week's Call: Luke 1:53

Next Week's Text: 1 John 1:5-10

Next Week's Title: "The Humility of the Church"

Future Calls: Luke 1:54-55, 68-69, 70-73, 74-75, 78-79; Luke 2:13-14, 29-32; Revelation 5:6-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14; Revelation 15:3, 4; Revelation 21:1-4, 5-7, 22-23

Future Titles: "The Draw of the Church" (2 Corinthians 2:14-17), "The Distinction of the Church" (1 Peter 2:11-12), "The Instrumentality of the Church" (1 Peter 2:9-10), "Church as Building" (1 Peter 2:6-8), "Church as City" (Ephesians 2:19-22), "Church as Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-31), "Church as Family" (John 1:12-13), "Church as Bride" (Ephesians 5:22-33), "The Eternality of the Church" (Revelation 21:1-7)

Fallen Condition Focus: We don't live as salt and light of the earth.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ was the ultimate salt and light of the world for us, and now empowers us to be the salt and light for Him.

Central Truth: "Let us be the salt and light of the world for Jesus who was the ultimate salt and light for our salvation.

Summary: After declaring the blessings over the spiritually hungry and needy in Christ, we see that Jesus declares our identity. We are the salt of the earth, meaning that we preserve, purify, flavor, scatter, dissolve, and make others thirsty for Jesus. We are the light of the

world, by living the life of Christ and revealing the truth. We can do this through the ultimate salt and light, Jesus Christ.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does it mean for us to be salt and light?
2. Where are we the weakest? Where are we the strongest?
3. How does Jesus empower us for such an identity?

#### I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

#### II. The Salt of the Earth (v. 13)

- A. Preserves- keeps from rotting/decaying
- B. Purify- we sanctify one another through community
- C. Flavor- bring out the flavor; not replace it (too much); we bring out the beauty and the humanity of those around us; we make people more human; we bring out the best versions of other
- D. Scatter- no clump; salt shaker (lid, wrong opening), even rock salt
- E. Dissolve- dies to itself for the sake of the food
- F. Make others thirsty for Jesus
- G. Lose saltiness
  1. Impurities; not salt to begin with

#### III. The Light of the World (vv. 14-16)

- A. Illuminates- reveals the truth of this world and also about Christ
- B. Gives life- brings about new life
  1. To the hurting, hopeless, helpless, grieving, broken, etc.
- C. Point of light is to be displayed
  1. In the world but not of the world
- D. Our light will inspire others to glorify God.
- E. Points to the true source- reflection of the main light (moon)

#### IV. Jesus, the True Salt and Light

- A. Jesus is the one who preserves us for eternity.
- B. He is the One who sanctifies us.
- C. He is the one who gives us life.
- D. He was scattered into this world and away from His Father.

- E. He died to give us life.
- F. He thirsted, so that He may satisfy our thirst.
- G. He is the Light of the World who reveals to us the truth. He is the One who took on the darkness of our sin on the cross, so that we may be brought from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light.
  - 1. Bathroom; no light in the darkness of night