



Collusion or Collision—part 6
When Salt Loses its Saltiness
From sermon 5.16.21

Read *Matthew 5:13-16*

Review from Sunday's sermon: The religion of Jesus' day had grown worldly, empty, and worthless. They had ceased to be the chosen representatives of God. Jesus warned the church and Christians about the same trappings. Sadly, the state of the Church today is exactly opposite of what Jesus designed and commissioned. It begins with the treatment of the Word. It ends with looking like the world.

1. Read the following verses. Answer and discuss: What makes us salt?

Mark 9:50—How we represent Christ (personally & corporately) and stand out from the culture.

1 Corinthians 1:18—How we feed/need the Word vs. a world that wants nothing to do with it.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5—How we fight for truth. Not as the world, but with our testimony.

2.

<u>Historic Use of Salt</u>	<u>Symbolism</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Preservative	<u>the true church inhibits the decay of sin</u>	<i>1 Timothy 4:16</i>
Seasoning	<u>applied Christianity is a blessing to the lost</u>	<i>Colossians 4:6</i>
Sign of Purity/Promise	<u>we are sealed with a covenant of value</u>	<i>2 Chronicles 13:5</i>
Disinfectant Antiseptic	<u>the Word and the blood cleanse us from sin</u>	<i>Ezekiel 16:4</i>
Stain-removing Abrasive	<u>the Word and testimony of others led to our sin-stain removal</u>	<i>Isaiah 1:18</i>

3. Although essential for us, what is our salt to the world controlled by the enemy? Various answers. An abrasive. An irritant. A poison. Rubbing salt in the wound.

4. How, then, does salt lose its saltiness? When the church stops being the church Jesus designed. If/when it alters or rejects the Word.

5. How is “consumer Christianity” promoting the ineffectiveness and faithfulness of the Church? Various answers. But, include: it made church about the attendees and not God. It's about my preference, not what God prescribed. It made church comfortable at the expense of doctrine, sacrifice, commitment, holiness, wholesale surrender, fear of judgment...

6. Give some examples of compromises in the Church that cause it to fail Christ's commission. Redefining of sin. Easy believe-ism = just say a prayer, walk an aisle, sign a card. No life change or accountability is expected. Live how you want all week and come to church when it's convenient and fits your schedule. See also *Revelation 3:1-3*

7. List and discuss some practical ways you can guard yourself and your Church from losing its saltiness.