



The Church of Irresistible Influence



Matthew 5:13-16

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RIVA






You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. Matthew 5:13




*Christ followers are to
be an attractive,
moral preservative in
the world.*



You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matthew 5:14,15



*Let your light shine before men
in such a way that they may
see your good works, and
glorify your Father who is in
heaven.*

Matthew 5:16



unbearable pressure on the church:

- *to create a church that meets the needs of its members.*



unbearable pressure on the church:

- *to create a church that meets the needs of its members.*
- *to view the church as “successful” based on the mindset: “the bigger, the better”.*

“The willingness of Christians to care for others was put on dramatic public display...Pagans tried to avoid all contact with the afflicted, often casting the still-living into the gutters.


Christians, on the other hand, nursed the sick even though some died doing so...Christians also were visible and valuable during the frequent natural and social disasters afflicting the Greco-Roman world: earthquakes, famines, floods, riots, civil wars, and invasions.”

Rodney Stark

“Christians stood out for their chastity, their hatred of cruelty, their civil obedience, good citizenship...They did not expose infants, they did not swear. They refused to have anything to do with idolatry and its by-products. Such lives made a great impact....It is difficult to overestimate this moral emphasis in the growth of second century Christianity.” Michael Green, Evangelism in the Early Church



*People of the
beatitudes are savory
salt and bright lights.*



*“The norms of the kingdom,
worked out in the lives of
the heirs of the kingdom,
constitute the witness of
the kingdom.”*

D.A. Carson

