



**The Church and Culture: The Paradox of In but Not Of**  
**4<sup>th</sup> in the “Church on Mission” Series**  
**Matthew 5:13-16 p. 810**  
July 29, 2018  
Olle Larson, Pastoral Intern

**Introduction**

In this passage, God teaches Christians what it means to faithfully engage culture in the world yet not be of it.

**A Survey of Different Church Postures Toward Culture**

- 1) Fortification approach (Purity From).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Domination approach (Defense Against)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Accommodation approach (Relevance to).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Seeking a Biblically Balanced view

**Text: Matthew 5: 13-16: Salt of the Earth and Light of the World – A Reminder of Three Things**

- 1) The Fall has marred God’s good creation.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) As Christians enter into culture, there is work to be done.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) As Christians enter into the world, it is not without key distinctions from culture.

**Response**

- As Ambassadors of Christ, you are called to salt and light the state line area.

## Sunday Text Questions for Matthew 5:13-16

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- 1) When addressing the complex topic of the relationship between the church and culture, a popular phrase in Christian circles is “be in the world but not of it.” How do the metaphors of salt of the Earth and light of the World help explain what it means to “be in the world?” How do the metaphors help explain “but not of it?”
  
- 2) Christ gives an example of salt losing its saltiness and becoming useless. What might cause Christians to lose their saltiness in the world?
  
- 3) Salt is often known for its two functions: preventing decay/rot and adding flavor to food. What are some ways Christians prevent rot in a decaying world? What are some ways Christians add flavor in a tasteless world?
  
- 4) In verse 14-15, Christ uses two metaphors about the importance of letting light shine. In what ways do Christians fail to let their light shine? Why might Christians fail to let their light shine?
  
- 5) What are some way you can be salt and light to your neighbors?
  
- 6) What are some ways Hope church can corporately be salt and light in the state line area?