

WHO I AM IN CHRIST | PART 5

NOTES

SALT, LIGHT & DISCIPLES

The Christian Paradox: We ARE something in Christ, but we're also BECOMING it

- We are a new creation AND we're working out our salvation
- Both are true simultaneously.

SALT AND LIGHT (MATTHEW 5:13-16)

Core Identity Statements

"You ARE the salt of the earth" - definitive statement

"You ARE the light of the world" - not "can be" but "are"

Understanding Salt

- Salt infuses flavor through the cooking process
- We are called to infuse society with saltiness/flavor
- Brings out the best in what it touches

Understanding Light

- Even one sliver of light illuminates a dark room
- We shine in dark places
- Cannot be hidden when properly positioned

KEY PRINCIPLE: BEING VS. BECOMING

- We don't try to become salt and light
- We ARE salt and light, so we go out and be what we are
- "You are salt, so don't lose your flavor"
- "You are light, so shine"

Purpose of Salt and Light

- Not for our glory but so that people will praise our Heavenly Father
- Everything points back to God's glory
- Good deeds aren't about how good we are

THE PROGRESSION OF IDENTITY

Three-Stage Journey:

Redeemed - Nothing we can do to earn it (starting point)

Recreated - New creation, mind of Christ, temple of God (becoming)

Representatives - Salt, light, disciples (behaving)

Critical Order:

- We don't do good works to earn acceptance
- We do good works because we are accepted
- Identity shapes behavior, not the other way around

DISCIPLESHIP (MATTHEW 16:24-26, 28:19-20)

The Cost of Following Jesus

"Give up your own way, take up your cross and follow me"

"If you try to hang onto your life, you will lose it"

"If you give up your life for my sake, you will save it"

What Discipleship Looks Like

- All-out surrender - no dancing around it
- Complete life transformation - not just a priority, but THE priority
- Everything changes: how we eat, dress, think, what we consume
- Dead to self, alive to God

THE GREAT COMMISSION REALITY

- Every believer is called to make disciples
- No distinction between “believer” and “disciple” - they’re the same thing
- It should be organic, flowing naturally from who we are

Challenge Question

“If church leaders stepped back from programs, would discipleship still happen?”

Answer: It should, because: The command is to every believer

- Discipleship is who we are, not just what we do
- Programs are tools to equip, not discipleship itself
- Can happen through coffee conversations, accountability, prayer

Key Takeaways

- Identity determines behavior - who we are in Christ shapes what we do
- We are, therefore we do - not the reverse
- Everything changes when we understand our true identity
- No category exists in Scripture for a believer who doesn’t live as a disciple
- It’s both simple and challenging - easy to understand, requires surrender to live

Final Reminder

This series is just one tool to help you continue pursuing God, developing your relationship with Him, and living out your identity in Christ.

NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Salt preserves and enhances; light reveals and guides. We are not here to escape culture—we're here to influence it with the hope, truth, and goodness of Christ. This is not about spotlighting ourselves, but pointing toward the Father. Jesus says we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. What do you think it means practically to bring "flavour and sight" into the spaces you live and work in?

2. Jesus instructs us to "let your good deeds shine before others"—not for recognition, but so God is glorified. This is a matter of heart posture. When we live for the applause of heaven, we're free from the pressure of being impressive. True good works don't draw attention to us, but through us—to the One we represent. How can we live publicly faithful lives without falling into self-promotion or performance?

3. In what ways does your perspective (temporal vs. eternal) shape how you live as salt and light?

Where do you personally feel challenged to keep your eyes on eternal things?

4. Discipleship is not just believing Jesus—it's becoming like Him. It requires surrender, obedience, and sacrifice. It's a daily journey, not a one-time decision. Jesus says being His disciple means denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Him. What do those three actions mean to you in real-life terms?

5. If there were no church programs or structured discipleship paths, would you still pursue being a disciple and making disciples?

What does this reveal about your understanding of discipleship and who it's really up to?

Note: Discipleship isn't a system—it's a lifestyle. Jesus' call wasn't, "Wait for someone to disciple you," but "Follow Me."

The responsibility to grow and to help others grow belongs to every believer, not just church leaders.

Challenge:

- Identify one environment (work, family, friendship group, online presence, etc.) where you can intentionally reflect Christ this week through truth, joy, kindness, or courage.

- Midweek, pause and reflect: "Am I blending in or standing out for the sake of God's glory?"

Journal one way you saw God use your life to point someone toward Him.