

# SALT, LIGHT, and MORALITY

By Bill Irby     October 22, 2008

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Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV). Jesus wants His disciples to flavor and light this world.

We are to do this in two primary ways: One is the proclamation of the entire gospel message; the Second is by living the Christian life before the people of the world. We proclaim the message of God's plan of salvation anywhere and in any way we can. And we must live in a consistent, agreeing relationship with that message. After all, Paul said, *"...do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God"* (Romans 12:2 NKJV).

If we are to be salt and light we must preach and teach the content of the Word of God on moral and ethical subjects. These can be controversial matters but if we are to be consistent with our faith in the message of God, we must not fail to tell the truth.

The truth is that we are locked in a war these days, a war over the kind of society we will have. In most places in the world this war seems surely to be lost. And perhaps for the moment it is in some places. But the child of God has to fight evil and sin wherever it is found. If we do not do this we are not salt and light.

There are certain moral issues that are or have the capacity to indicate the spiritual and ethical direction of a society. One of them is the matter of abortion. Abortion is the killing of an unborn child while that child is still in the mother's womb or, these days, as he or she leaves the womb. The vast numbers of

abortions are done today as birth control after the fact. Most statistical surveys indicate that there are approximately 1.3 million abortions per year in the United States and that there have been about 38 million abortions since 1973. This is a colossal tragedy having nothing at all to do with privacy or any such nostrum. It is simply a sin that arises in the vast majority of cases from instances of sexual immorality or carelessness.

Christians are compelled to be compassionate to women who find themselves with children for whom they did not plan. Care and love must be exhibited toward folks in this situation. But ending a child's life is not an acceptable option.

God sees unborn children as His creation (see Psalm 139). Once that child has been created we see that life as sacred because it is. When a society attempts to justify abortion it shows that it is in dire need of salt and light. And we must be that salt and light.

Another signal matter is our society's attitude toward marriage. Marriage was first attacked using the weapon of easy divorce. Divorce has no stigma today and many folks see marriage as a temporary arrangement. The societal termite of divorce has weakened the foundation of family life in our culture. Now, in the last few years an attempted redefining of marriage has rocked that foundation. We are told not only to accept the idea that homosexual behavior is in some way normative (it cannot be according to nature and Romans 1:18-32), but also to accept the idea that two people of the same sex can be married. That we are traveling down this road so quickly is full indication that this world needs the salt and light of people who believe God's Word.

Let us be committed to being faithful to the teachings of the Lord in all aspects of our lives, including supporting the Biblical view of marriage and opposing in every way possible the sinful practice of abortion.