

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Internet/So, what about...?
- B. 1st year
- C. Mission/Vision
- D. Time to get into the community... let people know God is for them...
- E. Church is hope of the world
- F. Then why is it so resistible... 3/5

II. WE

- A. Words Christian and Church... tend to create an emotional response...
 1. Been a Jesus-Follower might give good feels.
 2. But have you ever felt awkward or even embarrassed when people find out you are a Xian?... but then you feel guilty about it?
 3. Not a Xian—Positive or negative or neutral feelings about Xian and Church?
 4. In a group of people and someone brings up Xians or church someone is going to feel awkward.
- B. Why?
 1. Why is it that when someone finds out what I do for a living they get weird and the conversation dies?
 2. One of the reasons is...

C. The Church is usually known for what it's against...

1. Gays
2. Abortion
3. Swearing
4. Other religions
5. Evolution/Science
6. Alcohol
7. Liberals
8. Fun

D. Googled... "Christians are..."

1. Narrow Minded
2. Mean
3. A-Holes
4. Judgmental

E. Whether this is all fair or not... this is how a lot of our neighbors see the Church and Xians.

1. The Church is against all the things that they like and are and therefore the Church is against them.

F. Makes people think... church is for church people.

1. To belong you have to be against all these things too.
2. "I wouldn't be welcome b/c I'm not like that... in fact I like a lot of the stuff the Church is against."

G. This mentality is at play in a lot of church people...

1. Think they have to fit the mold to belong... makes them hypocrites...
2. They have to hide their flaws or do the stuff they like in secret.
3. "Hide the beer the pastor is coming for dinner."

H. So all these things really make people feel like the church is against them... or at least doesn't care about them.

1. That the church is only for church people... only for Christians
2. Why some of you gave up or why someone had to drag you here.
3. Why you watch online but are nervous to come in person

I. Last week- God is for way more than he is against and he is for you.

1. So if that's true... why is the church known for what it's against?

J. Church = Ekklesia = a gathering of people united for a specific purpose.

- K. Jesus explains exactly why the church was created in a famous sermon recorded in Matthew 5:13
1. Same Matthew/Levi from last week.
 2. Explains **the Church was created on purpose for a purpose.**

III. GOD (Matthew 5:13-16)

- A. **V. 13**- Salt?
1. Uses- Preservation but also FLAVOR.
 2. Just makes food better... more enjoyable
 3. Food w/o salt?
 - a. Tasteless, bland, uninteresting, boring!
 4. So when Jesus told his followers they were the salt of the earth what was he saying?
 - a. Your job is to add flavor to life... your job is to make the world and people's lives better!
 5. **The Church exists to make people's lives better...**
 - a. Not better like "stop doing this or that"...
 - b. Satisfaction.
 6. Following Jesus brings ultimate satisfaction
 - a. Freedom/Relationship/Hope/Full rich life... better at life.
 7. That's the role of the church... to bring the satisfaction of Jesus to the world.
 - a. Not to bring judgment and a list of rules...
 - b. But to show that God loves you, is for you, and that you can have true life through Him.
 8. The church should be as irresistible and satisfying as a perfectly seasoned steak, spicy tots at venti's...
 9. What do you call salt that isn't salty... sand.
 - a. Pointless, annoying, ignorable

10. What do you call a church that doesn't make people's lives better? Typical. **[Ouch- maybe I should say... "Not a church"]?????**

11. You ever meet a saltless Xian or go to a saltless church?
 - a. Boring/bland/made life worse not better?
12. Ever meet a salty Xian or church?
 - a. Joyful, loving, peaceful, enjoyed life?
 - b. Made you thirsty for more?
13. Salt makes you thirsty... do we make people thirsty for more of what we offer... Jesus?

B. **V. 15-16** Light?

1. Light- allows you to see reality for what it is.
 - a. Reality- You were created in the image of God. To have a relationship with God. He loves you. He is for you.
 - b. Sin broke. Jesus came to fix it. Offers it for free.
2. Without light people get lost, stumble, fall, separated, miss the beauty of everything around them.
 - a. Driving at night not realizing how beautiful Oregon was.

3. The Church exists to illuminate and radiate God's love.

4. Light doesn't keep to itself... it doesn't just light up its little spot...
 - a. It reaches into every corner.
 - b. It goes keeps going...
5. The church should be as easy to ignore as high beams on a dark road.
6. What do you call light that doesn't shine? Dead? Non-existent? Dark?

7. What do you call a church that doesn't illuminate and radiate God's love?

C. V. 16

1. The church exists to bring God glory.
2. Nothing brings God more glory than transformed lives.

3. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by transforming lives.

4. How?
5. Being salt and light.
6. Making people's lives better by illuminating and radiating God's love.

IV. YOU

A. If you are a Jesus follower-

1. You are the salt of the earth.
 - a. God's spirit lives in you. You have the ability to add interest, life, and flavor to those around you.
2. You are the light of the world.
 - a. God's Spirit lives in you. You have the ability to radiate God's love in places that haven't seen his light in years... marriages, families, neighborhoods, hurts.

- B. Let your salty light shine... and join us in showing our city that God is for them...

C. One other thing about salt and light...

1. Does one grain of salt season an entire steak or cucumber?... takes thousands.
2. Does one flashlight light up a whole city?- Takes thousands.
3. If God is FOR our city... will it take only one person? Or will it take a group? An Ekklesia? Maybe many Ekklesias?

- D. We are better together. We were created to work together to transform the world b/c...

E. **The Church is not for church people. The church is for the world.**

1. The church is God's chosen instrument to transform the lives of the people he created and loves and is FOR.
2. Unfortunately, the world has many churches that are content with simply lighting up their own little area... their own little family.
3. Like they built a city in a valley so nobody will see the light.
4. Jesus says he created the church to Shine... to be impossible to ignore... to be irresistible to people who need the love of God.

- F. Crosscreek was created on purpose for a purpose... to lead people into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ... by creating a local church/ekklesia that is irresistible to people who don't normally go to church.

G. #forSalem- What we are for.

1. Schirle Elementary –
 - a. School Supply Drive
 - b. **Clean Up: Sept. 2nd** (Slide)

2. **Forsalem.com**

H. **Not-Jesus-Follower...** if you've felt like God is not for you b/c a Xian or a Church has not been for you... Don't let that reflect Jesus... that was a saltless and lightless "Church."

1. That is not the Ekklesia.
2. It was sand... it was a quickly fading glow in the dark sticker.
3. God is for you. The Church was created for you. We are for you.
4. We at Crosscreek are for you... this whole thing was created for.
5. Keep coming and asking and investigating... and let us prove to you God is for you by allowing us to be for you.
6. And even if you don't believe... you can help us be for our city.

V. WE

- A. What if we were so salty and shiny that people who weren't even for our church knew that we were FOR them.
- B. What if people who would never step foot in a church service were terrified Crosscreek would leave b/c of how much we are FOR them... b/c of how much their lives have improved b/c we are for them?
- C. What if this city actually knew God is for them b/c Crosscreek is for them?
- D. Lives can and will be transformed, this city will never be the same b/c...

E. We are #forSalem.

- F. Communion.