IDENTITY CRISIS Pastor Rick Baker

#13 Where is the Church Going? April 25 2021

**THE SALTY CHURCH**

*Jesus’ instructions for engaging an unbelieving culture*

(Matt. 5:13)

**WHERE HAS THE CHURCH GONE?**

Do we beat them back in battle (conflict), increasingly become them (accommodation), or is there a biblically defined way of cultural engagement? *WHAT’S OUR WIN? --kill our enemies, conform to our enemies, see our enemies become our friends?*

**WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?**

**WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE?** (systems of engagement)

**WHERE IS THE CHURCH GOING?**

The church is ordained by Christ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a culture vigorously rejecting God.

*Are we becoming more about ourselves or even more about Jesus?*

**Getting our bearings—Who does Jesus say we are? Matt. 5:13-16** Where is the church going?

*The church will most represent me, most draw attention to me, this way. (Think of yourselves this way)*

We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Are we “worth our salt?”**

1. **S-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You are** the salt of the earth and entirely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_from the people of this world.

*Salt is* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*for life!*

Should we think church or do church anything like them?

1. **A-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You are** the people who bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to this world and must not allow yourselves to become diluted.

*Salt gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to life; creates a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

The church doesn’t traffic in meeting your every need or desire but in bringing **actual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to your life.**

Should the church dilute its saltiness to take the edge off of absolute truth?

1. **L-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You are** the people who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the world from utter decay.

*Without salt, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were impossible—keeps things from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

Preservers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_on earth.

Can we go off the grid? Salt has no effect from a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

1. **T-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Stay salty** because the unsalty are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Salt is or isn’t—it never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be and only the real has potency.*

There is a salt-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and light-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_side to “loving your neighbour” that is not love at all, but rather ends up actually pandering to their fears and offence toward the actual special revelation of God—expressed through His church. *There is equally a punitive potential when the church goes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with her neighbours and begins to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her enemies and the salt trampled into the field actually poisons the field!*

*SALT challenge--To keep the healthy from becoming sick and the sick from becoming more hostile.*

A life-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ alternative, confronting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, creating a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, helping, not hurting—pure salt. You are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.