The Conservative Christian

Matthew 5:13
Small Group Questions

(1) Read Matthew 5:3-16. What is the connection between the Beatitudes in vv 3-12 and the idea of believers being the "salt of the earth" in v 13?

(2) What is the idea of the "conservative Christian" in v 13? (Hint: It's not political.) What were the functions of salt that Pastor Rick talked about on Sunday?

(3) What is the world's condition that makes it so important for Christians to function like salt? Can you think of any biblical examples or passages that deal with the condition of the unbelieving world? Psalm 14:1-4 is a good starting point.

(4) What three specific ways were mentioned in the sermon as to how Christians act to conserve goodness in society?

    a. How do we see this played out in Genesis 18:22-33? Or 1 Corinthians 7:12-14?

    b. Colossians 3:1-4:6 is a passage that draws out specific ways in which believers function for good in the midst of a sin-decaying world. Spend a minute silently looking through that passage and share something that stands out to you as being a powerful antidote to the spiral of sin in our world.

(5) What caution does Jesus give in Matthew 5:13? How can salt lose its saltiness? (Think about the rock salt deposits by the Dead Sea from the sermon….)

    a. Is this passage teaching that a Christian can lose her salvation?
    (Hint: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 and Philippians 1:6)

    b. What threats are there to believers losing their preserving influence in the world?

(6) How should we guard against losing our conserving influence?
Check out 1 Peter 5:8-9, Ephesians 6:10-18, and Hebrews 12:14.