



EST. 1948

**MOORLANDS
COLLEGE**

FOLLOW

DOES IT EVEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

SESSION 6

Teaching

Ghandi, the famous pacifist, once said, "I like your Christ. I don't like your Christians. They are so unlike your Christ." For many people, Christianity is cosmetic not central or critical to who they are. It's what they do on a Sunday, like a lifestyle choice, what you say you believe. What you tick on a form.

Author Brennan Manning said, "The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable."

Christians are hypocrites. They say one thing and do another. You've heard this story before. Hypocrisy isn't falling short of a standard – it's pretending to be holy but not. It's the stuff of Christian celebrities who suddenly are found out for stuff they've done that they've kept secret. But Christians are all works in progress, who should be authentic about their struggles, while being open to God transforming them from the inside out.

One of the metaphors that Jesus used to describe how his followers should behave was to be salt and light. The context was what has been called the sermon on the mount, or the beatitudes, consisting mainly of teachings around character. Today, salt is used to enhance flavour. Who doesn't have salt on your fries? But in the first century there were no fridges or freezers, and the only way to preserve meat was to rub salt into it. Christians have a responsibility to preserve morality, justice, and influence society, and to bring out flavour. Everyone knows William Wilberforce helped end slavery, but not how much his Christian faith played a role. He was convinced God had called him to two things: to abolish the slave trade, and to reform people's manners. Preserve and flavour. He lived to see his first mission

accomplished. Josephine Butler was another driven by her Christian faith who took on the Victorian government to reform laws that oppressed women, and she would go into the workhouses and rescue women from prostitution, opening her home to them. I could go on and on, pointing to advances in medicine, prison reform, limiting children working, orphanages, education for all, and so much more.

Salt can lose its flavour. It can become diluted and cease to be as powerful a preservative, and maybe that's what we see too often. People who say they are Christian but do nothing, out of fear of rocking the boat, a kind of apathy, or not taking the words of Jesus seriously.

QUESTIONS



1. What in your life would you love God's help with?
2. How is God calling you to partner with him in bringing his kingdom?
3. In what ways could you be salt and light in your situation?



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