

SACRAMENTS - SESSION TEN

Session 10. Our youth will appreciate the Community Jesus formed in terms of the image of salt.

Parents: The image of salt is a very meaningful one. We are told that salt does not add a flavor to that which is seasoned – it rather “brings out the flavor” proper to the food itself. It is a particularly useful image in that it describes the role of the Church in terms that are profound. God speaks to each of us in the depths of our human experience. In the plan of God, there would be another communication to individual people from God – one through other people. It is your depth of appreciation of the faith written in the life you lead that solidifies the love of God in the experience of others. We – Church and School can teach the “What” of the faith – its content. Only you can teach its importance. This you will show rather than tell.

The Following concepts are important to appreciate this image:

SALT :: CHURCH
FOOD WORLD

- Salt brings a definite dimension of flavor to the food. it seasons.
- In many seasonings, a flavor is added. In salt, the flavor is drawn forth from that which is seasoned itself.

God then is telling us several things about church that we need to note carefully.

1. The presence of Church in the world affects people in a very definite and different way.
 2. Every individual experiences God in the course of a given life-time. This is written into the depths of our being. Additional reminders to us of God, and our relationship and dependence on God are people
 3. Each of us have certain people who by their presence in our lives have made God important to us
 4. These persons modeled “Walking with God” for us.
 5. And each of us, as individuals and as parts of the church community are called to be “salt” to others – BRINGING OUT the presence and love of Christ from those we meet.
- Thereby, the Church herself, and each of us “draw” forth from those we meet the certainty of the presence and love of God in the lives of others.

Parents: At this time, Share with your children:

- Persons in your life whose presence made you the religious person you are.
- Experiences which touched you profoundly as a young person, as an adult
- Times when your children themselves brought you the realization of God’s love. (Their birth itself)

Secondly, share with your children occasions when you were surprised that others said you yourself were Christ for them.

For the last three sessions, we have been examining the powerful images of Yeast, Light, and Salt, to describe the role of the church in the world. Two other images are important to consider.

One of these is the image of the vine and the branches that Jesus used. This speaks eloquently of our need for being connected with God.

1. A branch cut off from the vine simply dies. Its source of life and growth has simply been severed.
2. My life with God requires me to be connected on an ongoing basis with God.
3. Prayer – talking to God – spending time with God is essential.

One last image that is important is the Church as Body of Christ.

1. There are many kinds of unity: Being present to another. Friendship with another. Being related to another. Family
2. But the unity of the parts of the body to one another is most profound.
3. When an arm functions properly – the whole body benefits. Parts are interdependent.
4. The same vital principle energizes the whole and each part of the body.
5. As I am faithful to my God, I enable every person in the church community to be faithful and the community itself to be faithful.