

**A Closing Keynote Address presented by  
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## **Topic**

**Authentic Christianity:  
Being the salt and the light to the world through  
Charity, Justice and Service.**

## Why the word Authentic?

Authentic Christianity presents the negation to inauthentic christianity

Easy to dictate in the business world.

In religion...?

How?

# Any criteria for authentic Christianity?

frequency to church activities?

love we show?

who makes the judgement?

1. parents?
2. teachers?
3. the law?
4. pastors?

## **"Signs" of authenticity**

→ base on "Agape"

→ unconditional love

1. To be tested in difficult situations
2. Has to be a radical one

# Essentials of Christianity

What they are not

What they are

## What they are not

1. mere appearance as a Christian
2. adherence to a creed
3. hypocrit(ical) tendency
4. show of conditional love \*
5. Its not Gospel Salesmanship

## **What they "could" be**

1. Life according to the message of Christ
2. Christ-like life
3. Openness and impartiality
4. Life of love as Christ did
5. Life of steadfastness in moral convictions

## The "be-attitudes"

1. as the background for authentic Christianity
2. as an encouragement against taunts
3. the two metaphors:

**Salt** → **light**



# Salt (Sodium chloride → NaCl)

Used as

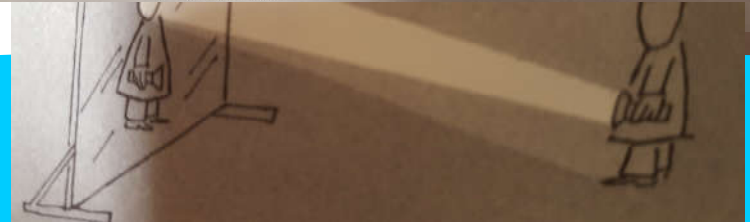
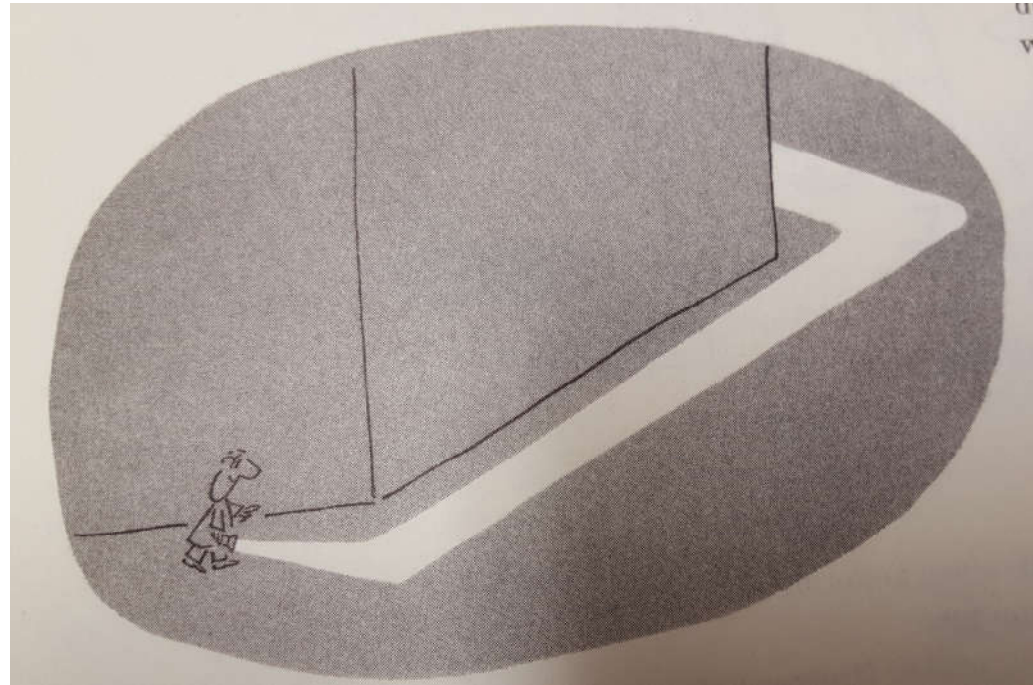
1. Preservative
2. flavour enhancement
3. Disinfectant
4. in cosmetics

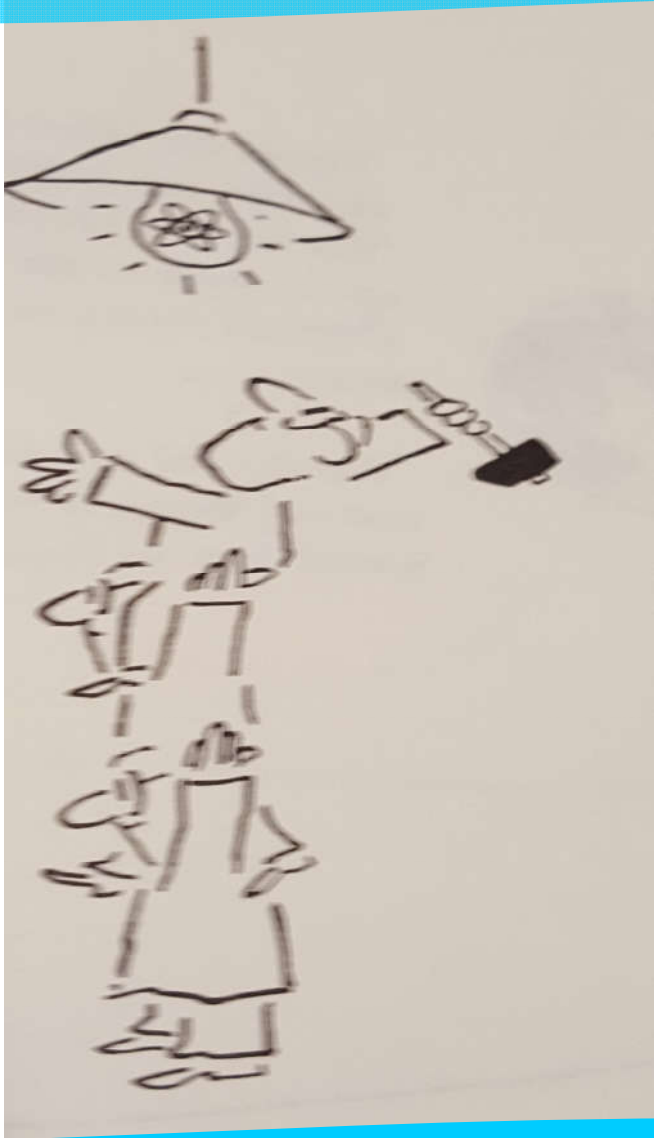
Avoid abuse (dont put too much of it in food or rub it in wounds)

# Light

speed of 299.792.458 metre per second (m/s)

1. Dispels darkness
2. brings warmth
3. points the way
4. serves as a warning





# Love as Christ loved

God is love (Deus Caritas Est)

Love is:

1. The core of our Christian faith/belief
2. A word widely used and abused

## **Supplement(s) of the injunction to love:**

1. John 13: 34 -35 (love one another as I loved you)
2. Mtt 22:39 (love your neighbour as yourself)

## What counts?

Not magnitude of the action but the heart that acted  
in the habit of :

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

St. Mother Theresa

St. Francis of Assisi

St. Maximillian Kolbe

Loving as Christ did entails -  
non negligence of ONE OF THESE (Matt 25:45)

Who are they? (one of these)?

Isaiah and Mathew (resumé of the answer)  
"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me" (Mathew 25:35 - 36)



"Is not this the type of fasting that pleases me: to break unjust fetters, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break all yokes? Is it not sharing your food with the hungry, and sheltering the homeless poor; if you see someone lacking clothes, to clothe him....

Then your light will blaze out like the dawn." (Isaiah 58: 6 - 8).

“As we aspire to or live an authentic Christian life, our entire life should revolve around Christ. Any deviation from this reality means a movement away from the call to perfection and a negation of our Christian vocation. Such would, thereby, establish inauthentic Christianity.”

*Rev. Chigozie Nnebedum*

Thank you for your attention