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The topological order of a topological phase of matter can be described by a unitary modular tensor category \mathcal{C} where objects correspond to anyons. If an anyon A in \mathcal{C} has the structure of a connected étale algebra it can be condensed and one obtains a new topological phase with topological order \mathcal{D} which is described by the category of local A -modules in \mathcal{C} . We give a mathematical description of symmetry preservation and breaking in this context by discussing the following question. Under which conditions can a symmetry of \mathcal{C} described by a finite group G be promoted to a symmetry of \mathcal{D} ? (Received September 23, 2018)