

Colossians - Chapter 4
“The Believer’s Walk and Talk: Does it Help, or Hinder our Witness?”
Colossians 4:5-6

Verses 5-6

1. What is the believer’s responsibility to the lost world (your co-workers, your neighbors, your lost family members, lost friends, etc.)?
2. If you know Christ as your Savior, you **do** have a responsibility. Paul discusses this in these two verses. “*Them that are without*” refers to those outside the family of Christ.
3. In verse 5, Paul deals with the believer’s walk. Paul admonishes us to “*walk in wisdom.*”
 - This means that we are always alert to opportunities that we might have to share Christ with others. We seize those opportunities, and don’t let them pass by. This is the idea of “*redeeming the time.*” We don’t know how much longer this dispensation of grace will last, so we redeem (buy up) every opportunity we can to win souls to Christ. Ephesians 5:14-17
 - It also means that the believer’s everyday conduct reflects the Christ that he claims to know as Savior. Our conduct **helps** us in our witness, it doesn’t **hinder** us (paying our bills, doing our work diligently, being honest with others, etc.). cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:12
 - One of the qualifications for a pastor is that he “*must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*” 1 Timothy 3:7
4. In verse 6, Paul deals with the believer’s talk.
 - Paul tells these believers that their speech should always be with grace. In order for our speech to be grace-filled, our hearts first must be grace-filled (3:16). From the heart, the mouth speaks.
 - What a shame that many believers are known at work as obnoxious, rude, arrogant, judgmental, and argumentative. This should not be. Gracious words proceeded out of the mouth of Christ. Luke 4:22
 - Many Christians can get a “holier than thou” attitude and look down their noses at unbelievers. Not that they actually tell people this, but this attitude is clearly communicated to those around them. This is repulsive and is not grace.
 - Our communication is to minister grace to others. Ephesians 4:29
 - Many Christians will read Old Testament Scriptures where prophets stood up publicly and openly rebuked Israel for her sin, and they misapply this by treating people like they are Old Testament prophets.
 - Nowhere in Paul’s teachings to the church are we instructed to be caustic and antagonistic towards the lost world. In fact, it’s just the opposite. Read Romans 12:17-18, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, and Titus 2:7-10.

- Paul also tells believers that their speech should be seasoned with salt. Of course, salt is a preserver and a seasoning. This simply means that our speech should always be in truth, yet spoken in love. Our speech should be true, yet seasoned in love. Ephesians 4:15
- Paul says, “...*that ye may know **how** ye ought to answer every man.*” Notice, he didn’t say, “That ye may know **what** to answer...” Many times we know what to tell people, but we struggle with how to tell them. We can eloquently tell them our **position**, but our **disposition** stinks.
- So, how do we answer people in the lost world when spiritual conversations arise? We answer with grace, truth, and love.