

Colossians 4:5-6 – Wisdom & Speech.

I. Wisdom (5).

Wisdom - skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth.

Redeeming - payment of a price to recover from what was lost..." Either "improving every opportunity of doing them good, and making the best use of your time in proper duty..."

Our primary connection to the non-Christians is to be a **witness** to them...

Luke 10:1-3, 16 - *After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves..." "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen*

Acts 1:8 - *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Ephesians 5:15-16 - *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

II. Speech (6).

"In classical writers 'salt' expressed the wit with which conversation was flavoured." (Peake) "Grace and salt make an ideal combination." (Robertson)

"Here is an interesting injunction. It is all too true that Christianity in the minds of many is connected with a kind of *sanctimonious* [self-righteous] dullness and an outlook in which laughter is almost a heresy.... The Christian must commend his message with the charm and the wit which were in Jesus himself." Barclay.

Proverbs 18:21 - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

“They must strive to cultivate the gift of pleasant and wise conversation, so that they may be able to speak appropriately to each individual (with his peculiar needs) with whom they come in contact.” (Peake)

Misuse of the tongue – blasphemy, deception/false witness, flattery, quick, backbiting, tale-bearing/ whispering/gossip/rumor, curse, slander, accusations, critical speech, foul or obscene, mocking, quarrelling...

- i. Speak only edifying words.

Ephesians 4:29 - *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

- ii. Don't be a talebearer.

Proverbs 26:20 - *Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.*

- iii. Slander is foolishness.

Proverbs 10:18 - *Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.*

- iv. The mouth is for witness.

Psalms 71:15 - *My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits.*

- v. Be gentle.

Proverbs 15:1 - *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

- vi. Danger of an uncontrolled tongue.

James 1:26 - *If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.*

James 3:3-10 -