

# Know How To Answer

## Colossians 4:6

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### Introduction

1. Colossians deals with error being taught by both Judaizing and Gnostic teachers seeking to pervert the doctrine of Christ (2:18-19).
2. In Colossians 4, after answering several errors, Paul exhorts Christians in how they ought to walk in Christ.
3. Among his instructions, Paul describes how we ought to behave in the world in our conduct and speech.

### Discussion

#### I. Walk With Wisdom

- A. Concerned with how we walk.
  1. Christians are the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
  2. Our light shines more through our deeds (how we walk) than our words.
  3. We teach Christ through our actions and conduct (2 Cor. 4:11).
  4. The world often evaluates God/Christ based on the actions of God's people. We can either glorify them (Matt. 5:16) or dishonor them (Rom. 2:23).
- B. If we want to turn men to God, we must walk in the wisdom of God.
  1. Eph. 5:17: Understanding what the will of the Lord is.
  2. Avoiding worldly behaviors/activities and ungodly speech.
  3. Not being selfish, greedy, or full of wrath, but allowing the meekness and righteousness of Christ to be seen through our actions, "*So that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh*" (2 Cor. 4:11, NRSV).

#### II. Let Your Speech Be With Grace

- A. Our speech must match our conduct.
- B. Speech with grace, seasoned with salt.
  1. Both grace and salt are pleasant things.
  2. Speech that is with grace is kind, respectful, pleasant, and full of wisdom.
  3. It reflects the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, etc. (Gal. 5:22 -23).
  4. It is not haughty, arrogant, puffed up, or insulting.
  5. This is illustrated with salt:
    - a. Salt makes the food taste good.
    - b. It does not change the food, but makes it more enjoyable.
    - c. Such should be the effect of our speech when we are speaking the truth—we do not change the truth, but express it in a godly way that is full of grace.

#### III. Know How You Ought To Answer Each One

- A. "Each one" refers to those who are "outside"
  1. If we walk with wisdom people will ask, "Why?"
  2. 1 Pet. 4:4: Some will think it strange that we do not walk the way they do.
  3. Others will ask about our knowledge of God's word.

B. Answer for our conduct

1. We must be able to answer for the way we walk.
2. When asked why we do what we do, we should strive to know why.
  - a. Why do we look to the Bible as our only guide?
  - b. Why do we meet several times a week?
  - c. Why do we eat the Lord's Supper every Sunday?
  - d. Why do we baptize for salvation?
  - e. Why do we believe in the resurrection from the dead?
3. We should also seek to answer why we don't do certain things.
  - a. Why don't we drink or swear?
  - b. Why don't we gamble?
  - c. Why don't we use instruments in our worship?
4. Similar to giving a defense for our hope (1 Pet. 3:15).

C. Knowing HOW to answer requires wisdom as well as knowledge.

1. Strive to know how to answer with grace: kind, pleasant, respectful, and meek.
2. Describe and defend our faith in a way that is respectable, kind, gentle, and with meekness.
3. Have the knowledge of God's word as well as the character of God in our hearts.
4. HOW we say it has as much to do with influencing others as WHAT we say.

**Conclusion**

1. Christians must be pleasing to God first and foremost.
2. If we are to be pleasing to God then our goal will be to direct others to Him, that all may glorify Him.
3. The manner of our conduct and speech greatly influence the opinions of others toward God.
4. Let us therefore strive to bring honor and glory to our God by walking with wisdom and having or speech be with grace, seasoned with salt.

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