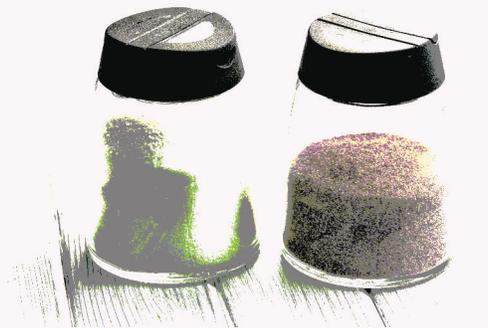


Walking in  
Wisdom toward  
Outsiders



Please pass the salt ...

# HOW DO WE WALK IN WISDOM TOWARD OUTSIDERS?

## 1. We are prepared to walk in wisdom toward outsiders by walking in wisdom toward insiders.

- (Colossians 4:5 ESV) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

If we are not living in a God-honoring way toward those in our fellowship, we will neither understand how to make the best use of our time toward outsiders nor will we know how to speak words of wisdom and grace to them. We can't flip a switch. If we are not wearing the clothing of God's chosen ones as we relate to "the insiders"—our brothers and sisters in Christ, then we will not be properly dressed to go outside.

- (Colossians 3:12–13 ESV) Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- (Galatians 6:9–10 ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## 2. We are prepared to walk in wisdom toward outsiders by making the best use of the brief time we have on earth.

- (Colossians 4:5 ESV) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.
- (Psalm 90:1–12 NLT) Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! 2 Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God. 3 You turn people back to dust,

saying, "Return to dust, you mortals!" 4 For you, a thousand years are as a passing day, as brief as a few night hours. 5 You sweep people away like dreams that disappear. They are like grass that springs up in the morning. 6 In the morning it blooms and flourishes, but by evening it is dry and withered. 7 We wither beneath your anger; we are overwhelmed by your fury. 8 You spread out our sins before you—our secret sins—and you see them all. 9 We live our lives beneath your wrath, ending our years with a groan. 10 Seventy years are given to us! Some even live to eighty. But even the best years are filled with pain and trouble; soon they disappear, and we fly away. 11 Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve. 12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

- (Psalm 90:12 ESV) So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

---

- (Job 14:1–12 NLT) How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble! 2 We blossom like a flower and then wither. Like a passing shadow, we quickly disappear. 3 Must you keep an eye on such a frail creature and demand an accounting from me? 4 Who can bring purity out of an impure person? No one! 5 You have decided the length of our lives. You know how many months we will live, and we are not given a minute longer. 6 So leave us alone and let us rest! We are like hired hands, so let us finish our work in peace. 7 Even a tree has more hope! If it is cut down, it will sprout again and grow new branches. 8 Though its roots have grown old in the earth and its stump decays, 9 at the scent of water it will bud and sprout

again like a new seedling. 10 But when people die, their strength is gone. They breathe their last, and then where are they? 11 As water evaporates from a lake and a river disappears in drought, 12 people are laid to rest and do not rise again. Until the heavens are no more, they will not wake up nor be roused from their sleep.

### 3. We are prepared to walk in wisdom toward outsiders by understanding the evil days in which we live.

- (Ephesians 5:15–18 ESV) Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 **making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.** 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

### 4. We respond to each person in wisdom and grace—as we should, as we ought—because grace is the world in which we now live.



*Our words are words of grace  
because our lives are lives of grace.*



#### A. Our words are **always** to be words of grace.

- (Colossians 4:6 ESV) Let your speech **always** be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- (Colossians 4:6 NASB95) Let your speech **always** be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
- (Hebrews 13:9 ESV) Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

#### B. Grace words flow in abundance from the heart of the one who understands

#### grace because the one who understands grace is the one who lives by grace.

- (Matthew 12:34–37 ESV) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment **people will give account for every careless word they speak,** 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

#### C. Grace words are seasoned with the insight and confidence of a person whose life is marked by the riches and treasures we have in Christ.

For our words to always be words of grace we must understand what words of grace are. What are they? They are words that reflect the full assurance and perspective of a person who has the uttermost faith in the sovereign, saving power of a God who is ever-present in their life.

- (Colossians 2:2–3 ESV) That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

#### Grace words seasoned with salt ...

***Because*** grace words ... are established in and by the power, authority and riches of God working in our lives ... ***and because*** Scripture teaches us that grace abounds when sin increases ... ***then*** we have tremendous reason for hope as we relate to the people around us when their attitudes and actions toward us increase in sinfulness ... ***because*** grace reigns through righteousness ...

- (Romans 5:20–21 ESV) Now the law came in to increase the trespass, **but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,** 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- (Isaiah 48:18 ESV) Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

**Grace words seasoned with salt ...** build up and fit the occasion. Grace words are the alternative to the corrupting talk that would otherwise come out of our mouths.

- (Ephesians 4:29 ESV) Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

**Grace words seasoned with salt ...** draw the person to the sufficiency and perfecting power of Christ in their weakness.

- (2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV) But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

**Grace words seasoned with salt ...** are given to us by the kind and merciful choice of God and by the working of God’s power as he brings his power and authority and riches to bear in saving and keeping those who believe. The person who then genuinely understands and lives in the abundance of God’s kind and merciful choice has now become a minister of this same grace and brings the kindness and mercy of God into his or her relationships.

- (Ephesians 3:7 ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power.
- (Romans 9:18 NIV) Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

**Grace words seasoned with salt ...** are to be lavished upon the recipients.

- (Ephesians 1:7–9 ESV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.

### Wisdom in Colossians ...

- (Colossians 1:9–10 ESV) And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be **filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- (Colossians 1:28 ESV) Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with **all wisdom**, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.
- (Colossians 2:3–4 ESV) In whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.
- (Colossians 2:22b–23 ESV) According to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed **an appearance of wisdom** in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
- (Colossians 3:16 ESV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in **all wisdom**, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

*grace*      **Grace**      *grace*