

Colossians 4:5-18

Share where we are going...June 18 Father's Day...June 25 Kelly J...July 2 Philemon...July 9 begin Philippians. READ/PRAY

Refocus on verses 5-6. In this text we get a snapshot of how we are to relate to "outsiders."

1. The first question we have to ask is, Who are these outsiders?

1. Mark 4:10-12 *As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. 11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, 12 so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.*

2. Matthew 13:47-48 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.*

2. The second question is, how are we to relate to them?

1. Think about the number of ways that we currently do so...many of which you may not even be aware of.
 - a. CEF almost 100 kids...follow up with workers and parents
 - b. Homeless ministry
 - c. Nursing Home...visiting, leading worship
 - d. Abortion Clinic....2 showers and meals
 - e. 2nd harvest
 - f. 6 missionary families are supported through your giving
 1. Germany / France / Turkey / Jordan / Papua New Guinea / DR
 2. International Mission Board giving
 - g. People who are engaging internationals with the gospel and girls going to the mall
 - h. 7 people being baptized counseled for baptism July 16
 - i. A couple headed to Thailand in a couple of months
2. We are thinking much about engaging "outsiders" with our time, talents, and treasures.

3. The third question is, How can we improve?

I. Our Conduct v5

A. Conduct yourselves in a Wise manner

1. Could be literally conduct yourself with wisdom or skill.
2. There are some Pauls that God has called to full time Christian ministry
3. But there are a whole lot more Christians who are "normal jobs."
 - a. There are a lot of different types of people Paul mentions v7-17
 - b. These people have different gifts and callings and are all used of God!
4. It reminds us of the Great Commission: "As you go"...make disciples.
5. We should do everything that we do with excellence for the glory of God and the advancement of the gospel.
6. Colossians 3:17
7. 1 Corinthians 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

B. Conduct Yourselves in a Timely Manner

1. Redeeming the time
2. Psalm 90:10 *The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.*
 - a. Our tendency is to dwell in the past or procrastinate to the future.
 - b. Ecclesiastes 7:10 *Do not say, "Why is it that the former days were better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.*
 - c. James 4:13-14 *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.*
3. Ephesians 5:15-16 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

II. Our Speech v6

A. Gracious Speech

1. Acts 2:47 *praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved.*
2. Acts 6:8 *And Stephen, full of grace and power, wrought great wonders and signs among the people.*
3. Do we reflect the grace of God?
4. Ephesians 4:29 *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

B. Salty Speech

1. Mark 9:50 *Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."*
2. In the simplest explanation, salt cleanses and salt keeps.
 - a. It is clear that the goal is not to "keep" the outsider as they are.
 - b. No, it would be to "cleanse" the outsider and then "keep" them clean.
3. So, to have salty speech would be to have speech that is cleansing!

C. Relevant Speech

1. We need to know how to respond to each other
2. 1 Peter 3:15 *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence*

So, as we relate to outsiders let us, keep watch on our conduct. Is it wise? Is it timely? And let us keep watch on our conversation. Is it gracious? Is it salty? Is it relevant?

Conclusion v18

1. As we conclude this letter, and consider what we have heard, let us remember Paul's chains
2. Think about the reality, that as he signed his name, his chains probably rattled...and he thought...remember my chains!
3. Doesn't that add some weight to his burden for the church?

Home Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any relationships with “outsiders” or are you primarily involved in the lives of other believers?
2. Reflect the ways that Providence is engaging outsiders. Is there any ways that were not mentioned in the sermon? If so, what are they? Stop and pray for the different ways PBC is engaging the lost, and make it a point to pray regularly for these ministries.
3. Are you better at conducting yourself in a wise manner or in a timely manner? How can you improve the area you are weakest in?
4. Is your speech characterized more by grace, salt, or relevance? What are some ways that you can improve your speech when it comes to relating to outsiders?
5. What part of the sermon was most impactful to you? Explain why and how you intend to apply what you heard.