



Lesson #6: Your Community (Colossians 4:2-6)

Communities are a natural byproduct of the image of God in humanity. God created humans for _____. When a person is saved, his community involvement is forever changed. He is transformed from the community of darkness into the community of light. Once a member of this new community of light the believer is faced with some important tasks. Since his identity is now _____ he must reflect that identity in his relationships on earth. Throughout our series in Colossians 3-4 we have looked at ways to reflect our new identity in our heart, behavior, church, family, and even work. Today we look even more specifically at our community involvement as believers. Today we discover the importance of directing those still in _____ toward the _____.

Let's be honest. As regular church goes, the idea of "witnessing" strikes fear and guilt into most of us. Fear, because we've perhaps had people reject the message of the Gospel we've tried to share with them. Guilt, because we've repeatedly failed in our witness for Christ. We know that we are to be a witness for Christ, we just struggle figuring out how that's actually supposed to work. Paul develops this theme of community involvement by means of spreading the Gospel in the verses in front of us today. He proposes that **God wants you to be the kind of witness for Him who _____ the _____ and _____ the _____ before a lost and dying community.**

To be a True Witness for Christ You must _____ the _____

Whether you like it or not, people are always watching you. Your witness, then, is always an overflow of your _____. To be the kind of witness that God can use you must learn to walk with wisdom. But a wise walk always begins with a private walk with God. There is a connection between verses 2-4 and verses 5-6: Your private _____ life lies behind your public witness.

- A. Wise walking always starts with _____ (v. 2-4)**
Paul understood, and readily accepted, that nothing would be accomplished without a strong prayer life and prayer focus. Therefore, he now asks the believers in Colossae to be in prayer for him as he sought to be a minister of _____. Prayer, then, is the first step in wise witnessing. A private walk with God in prayer is the _____ for verbal witness.

- B. Wise walking always stays eager to _____ (v. 3)**
Paul is insisting that we be ready to take advantage of _____ opportunity possible to share and show Christ to the lost community around us. The idea here pictures a businessman or investor who quickly moves in before the opportunity is gone. A wise witness is on the _____ to buy up opportunities to share Christ with lost people.

To be a True Witness for Christ You Must _____ the _____

Let's assume that you are truly walking the walk when suddenly, you get an opportunity to talk with a lost person about Christ. What do you do? When it comes to our actual contact with the lost community around us, our purpose is to speak and show Jesus Christ.

- A. Your speech must be seasoned with the _____ (v. 4-5)**
Paul understood something that we struggle to grasp at times. Paul understood that this ministry of being an ambassador for Christ will require some diligent _____. To communicate clearly the Gospel of Christ we need to learn some key verses to go with each point. We need to _____ the Gospel so we can _____ the Gospel.
- B. Your speech must be seasoned with _____ (v. 6)**
"Seasoned with salt" carries the idea of flavoring and appropriateness. Wise evangelists will be careful to ensure that their most obvious evangelistic tools are kept in good working order – that is, they will be careful to flavor their speech with _____ and _____. We are reminded that both the _____ of the words spoken and the _____ of speaking matter to God.

Concluding Thoughts

Our purpose behind involving ourselves in the community is to _____ and _____ the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. This is Jesus-wrapped community involvement. Are you involved? The disciples in Acts said, *"We cannot help but speak of that which we have seen and heard."* I think the problem with so many Christians today is that they have not adequately considered all that Christ has done for us. If they did truly understand the Gospel as it was proclaimed to them they would be compelled to tell others about it! Is it possible that you are not sharing the Gospel because you have not allowed it to impact your life?

It may be possible that there are some hearing this message that have never led someone to the Lord. It may even be possible that there are some listening who have not only never led someone to Christ, they have never even tried! How sad. Frankly, I think this owes another point of emphasis as we close. To not be a witness for Christ in your community as a believer is indeed a _____. God wants you to walk the walk *and* talk the talk!