

How to Walk as a Believer

Colossians 4:5

NKJ ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

BGT ⁵ Ἐν σοφίᾳ περιπατεῖτε πρὸς τοὺς ἔξω τὸν καιρὸν ἐξαγοραζόμενοι.

If then you were raised with Christ,

1. **BE SEEKING** the Above Things (Col 3:1)
2. **BE THINKING** the Above Things (Col 3:2)
3. **PUT TO DEATH** Sinful Motivations (Col 3:5-7)
4. **PUT OFF** Sinful Actions (Col 3:8-11)
5. **CLOTHE YOURSELF** with Spiritual Clothing (Col 3:12-14)
6. **LET** the Peace of Christ **RULE** Between You and Others (Col 3:15)
7. **LET** the Word of Christ **DWELL** in You Richly (Col 3:16-17)
 - a. As **Wives**, **BE SUBJECTING** Yourselves to Your Husbands (Col 3:18)
 - b. As **Husbands**, **BE LOVING** Your Wives, and Do Not Be Embittered Towards Them (Col 3:19)
 - c. As **Children**, **BE OBEYING** Your Parents in All Things (Col 3:20)
 - d. As **Fathers**, **DO NOT BE AGITATING** Your Children (Col 3:21)
 - e. As **Slaves**, **BE OBEYING** Your Masters in All Things (Col 3:22-25)
 - f. As **Masters**, **BE GRANTING** Your Slaves what Is Just and Fair (Col 4:1)
8. **BE RELENTLESS** in prayer (Col 4:2-4)
 - a. *Watching with thanksgiving*
 - b. *Praying for pastors and proclaimers*

I. Command – “be walking”

A. Foundation:

1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

2:6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

3:7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

B. Explanation:

1. Christianity involves an ongoing change in conduct
2. Biblical Christianity changes one's behavior
3. Being a disciple is a lifestyle, not a name on a list

C. Application:

1. *Do you understand God's expectation of a changed life?*
2. *Do you see change in your life?*

II. Criteria – “in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time” *How?*

A. By Being Directed by God's Wisdom (“in wisdom”)

Foundation:

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 119:105 Your word [is] a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Explanation:

1. God is the source of wisdom
2. God instructs us in wisdom
3. God expects us to live by wisdom (as opposed to...)
4. Prov 1:7 – “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”

Application:

- *Are you living by God’s wisdom that only comes through fearing Him and learning His Word?*
- *Are you directed by God’s wisdom or something else (feeling, “peace”, pragmatism, etc.)*

B. By Being Concerned About Unbelievers (“toward those *who are outside*”)**Foundation:**

Mark 4:11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

1 Cor 5:12 For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

1 Cor 5:13 But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person."

Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time.

1 Thes 4:12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

Rev 22:15 But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Explanation:

1. We are to be continuously aware of two groups of people – saved and unsaved.
2. We are to be conducting ourselves with the understanding that unbelievers see us.
3. We are to be actively involved in impacting unbelievers.

Application:

- *Are you seeing the two eternal groups?*
- *Are you actively behaving in wisdom with the idea of impacting unbelievers?*

C. By Making the Most of Your Time (“redeeming the time”)**Foundation:**

Luke 4:13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Acts 14:17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

Rom 13:11 And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.

Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Eph 5:16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Explanation:

1. We can use our time well or poorly.
2. We can seek to take advantage of opportunities that exist (1) generally, by making the most of each day; and (2) specifically, by looking for and seizing each opportunity to influence people with the gospel.

Application:

- *Are you walking in wisdom by using your time in eternal ways?*
- *Are you looking for opportunities to share and further the gospel?*
- *Are you taking those opportunities?*