

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, November 5, 2023

**How to Live in the World When You're Not of It
A Study of Colossians 4:5-6**

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Tis the season for “pumpkin spice” everything. Let’s settle this: “Pumpkin Spice: Yay or Yuck?”

In the verses we’re studying today, Paul talks about the “seasoning” required in our conversations about Jesus that we have with nonbelievers. Read Colossians 4:5-6.

Read John 17:15-18. In this prayer, Jesus wanted his followers to be **in the world** even though our values are not **of the world**. Why is it easier to just meet one or the other of those expectations instead of both at the same time?

In Colossians 4:5-6, Paul shows us three ways to relate to nonbelievers.

First:

Speak to nonbelievers with timely words

“make the most of every opportunity”

Paul was saying, “Take full advantage of the many opportunities that arise to discuss the claims of Jesus.” Which is more likely the case: (a) you have few opportunities to discuss your faith, or (b) you aren’t sensitive to the opportunities that arise.

Does this command apply to all believers or only some? Explain.

Read Ecclesiastes 11:4. What does the proverb mean and how could it apply to sharing our faith with nonbelievers?

Describe a time you worked up the courage to discuss your faith with someone. How did it go? What did you learn?

Second:

Speak to nonbelievers with gracious words

“Let your conversation be full of grace”

Pastor Tom said, “Those who speak *of* grace must speak *with* grace.” What does it mean to speak *of* grace? What does it mean to speak *with* grace?

A lot of people have observed that our current cultural moment is more ungracious than it’s been in a long time. Do you agree? If so, why do you think this is so?

What does it mean to be “full of grace” as you talk about difficult subjects where there is deep disagreement?

Read Psalm 45:2 and Luke 4:22. What do these verses say about Jesus’s ability to speak with grace?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. How does this verse relate to the first two points of today’s study outline? In other words, what does Simon Peter say about speaking to nonbelievers in *timely* and *gracious* ways?

Third:

Speak to nonbelievers with seasoned words

"Let your conversation be . . . seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

The phrase "seasoned with salt" could be taken in three different ways. Which one did Pastor Tom teach, and do you agree? Explain your answer.

- Some say, "Like salt livens up the flavor of a dish, make your conversation lively and interesting."
- Some say, "Like salt purifies and preserves, make sure your conversation is edifying and uplifting."
- Some say, "We call wise people 'seasoned,' and conversation about Jesus requires wisdom."

Who do you need to talk to about your faith this week?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests.