

Study: A Useful Vessel

Text: Colossians 4:5-6

PUTTING ON CHRIST IN OUR *PUBLIC* LIFE

**Mission Statement:** *to passionately serve GOD and to compassionately serve others—ALL to the glory of GOD!*

**Memory verse:** **2 Timothy 2:21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet [*useful*] for the **Master's** use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

† Usefulness In Our \_\_\_\_\_ Life (Colossians 4:5-6)

The challenge for us is—to LOOK *DISTINCTLY* LIKE CHRIST in our PUBLIC lives!

Q: What does your public life look like? Is it clear to others that Christ is your Master and you are seeking to honor Him in everything?

**I. \_\_\_\_\_ WISELY in your PUBLIC LIFE (v. 5)**

This word, “*wisdom*” can be defined as the \_\_\_\_\_ use of knowledge.

“*Walking in wisdom*” includes being \_\_\_\_\_ in fulfilling your responsibilities; doing your work, paying your bills, and keeping your promises.

**1 Thessalonians 4:12** That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

Cf. 1 Timothy 3:7

“...redeeming the time.” –

**Ephesians 5:16** Redeeming [*make the most of*] the time, because the days are evil.

Cf. Ephesians 5:15-17

**James 1:5** If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask [*keep on asking*] of **God**, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

By “*redeeming the time*” we seek to make the best use of opportunities. In order for a believer to bridge the gap **he must see that every opportunity as one that will help or hinder their usefulness for Christ.**

**II. \_\_\_\_\_ WISELY in your PUBLIC LIFE (v. 6)**

Q: How do your words sound to others? Are your words *honey* or *vinegar*?

**James Strong** (Exhaustive Concordance) defines “*grace*” as the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life.

Consider Christ’s testimony,

**Luke 4:22** And all bare **Him** witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of **His** mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

**A. With GRACIOUS \_\_\_\_\_**

**Proverbs 16:21** The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

**Proverbs 16:24** Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**A truth spoke WITH grace goes so much further than trust spoken WITHOUT grace.**

Cf. Proverbs 15:23

**B. By \_\_\_\_\_ CORRUPTION**

**Proverbs 15:7** The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so.

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt [*rotten or worthless*] communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying [*building up*], that it may minister grace [*spiritual blessings*] unto the hearers.

**C. With \_\_\_\_\_ COMMUNICATION**

In our public lives we must speak the *stabilizing truths* of God. People need to hear God’s Word. In order to speak the Word’s of God we must be in the Word of God.

Q: What areas of your *walk* need addressing?

Q: What areas of your *talk* need addressing?

**What is my next step?** What sin must I *put off*, truth to *renew my mind*, and Christlike quality must I *put on*?

## What Is My Next Step?

**Hearing** — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it – James 1:21-25  
**Doing** — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ – Eph. 4:22-24

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Text: \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF**)
  
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew**)
  - a. What is He like?
  - b. What does He like?
  - c. What does He dislike?
  
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew**)
  - a. What command to obey?
  - b. What promise to claim?
  - c. What principle to apply (*If I do \_\_\_\_\_, then God will do \_\_\_\_\_*)?
  
  - d. What example to follow?
  
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew**)
  
5. In light of what I have heard from God,... (**Put ON**)
  - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
  - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
  - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)

OUR MISSION: Passionately Serve God & Compassionately Serve Others—  
ALL to the Glory of GOD

## Sermon Notes

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