

Reflecting on Colossians 4:2-6

August 27, 2023

Note: Much of the following Discussion Questions come from the MacArthur Bible Studies book, "Colossians & Philemon: Completion and Reconciliation in Christ" (Thomas Nelson, 2007). Please let Pastor Jeremy know if you would like to purchase a copy of this book.

DISCUSS

- 1) **Read Colossians 4:2-4.** What specific instructions does Paul give about prayer in verses 2-4? What is the difference between praying and being devoted to prayer?
- 2) **Read Colossians 4:5-6.** What guidelines does Paul give for interacting with those who are "outside" (i.e. unbelievers)?
- 3) **Read Colossians 4:5.** The idea behind verse 5 is that a believer's character ought to give credibility to a believer's conversation. Everything we do (or don't do) speaks volumes about our

lifestyles and our beliefs. How does a careless or sloppy lifestyle, or a life of legalism, diminish the power of our testimony to unbelievers?

4) **Read Colossians 4:6.** In what specific ways is your speech “salty” (in a good sense)? How does your tongue serve as a purifying influence, rescuing conversations from the filth that so often marks public discourse?

(Note: Don't give into the temptation to dwell on the “filth” mentioned at the end of this question. The main idea is how our tongues can be instruments of truth and grace in this lost world.)

5) **Read Colossians 4:2-6.** This passage actually says (pun intended) a lot about speech. Look through the following list and circle the areas where you think you most struggle:

Praising God

Lying

Complaining

Flattering

Arguing	Sharing the gospel
Cursing	Speaking the truth in love
Yelling	Boasting/bragging
Telling people off	Encouraging others
Being critical	Expressing gratitude
Gossiping	Other: _____

Based on our passage for this week, what changes need to be made in your speech? If you're comfortable, share your answers with your group.

PRAY

Have three people close your Life Group in prayer, remembering the following ideas:

- God has given us the ability to speak as a means of praising Him, encouraging others, and sharing the gospel. Pray that our church would be faithful in these areas.

(Note: It may be helpful to reference the previous discussion in your prayer.)

- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel this week.

(Note: Maybe someone in your Life Group is currently witnessing to an unbeliever. This would be a good time to pray for that person's salvation.)

LIVE

- This week, perform one of the following two exercises to work on your speech:
 - ***If you struggle with anger or being overly critical***, write out your initial thoughts about an issue that angers or frustrates you, as if you're writing in a journal. After reading through your words, identify where you lack the spirit of Christ that Paul details in Colossians 4:2-6. Take some time to pray over these thoughts, then rewrite them in a way that demonstrates thanksgiving (4:2), gospel witness (4:3), wisdom (4:5), grace, and encouragement (4:6).
 - ***If you struggle to encourage others***, write a letter to lift up someone in our church. Pray for this person, and let him or her know that you are doing so.