

Use your Words for Good

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- They meet every Wednesdays to pray, plan and assists each other in the work that God has assigned to them in their places.
- Around 50 to 60 Pastors and Leaders meet
- Pastor Felipe Nuñez has to travel long distances to visit, encourage those members of the group, and without transportation this mission becomes very difficult. Motorcycle \$1080.

Pray for the team going to Mexico.

Colossians 4:2-6 (NLT) Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. ⁵ Live wisely among those who are not believers and make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

(Summary and Review) Paul has made clear in the letter to the Colossians that Jesus is the head of creation and the church.

He also emphasized the sufficiency of Christ's when it comes to salvation. What Jesus did was more than enough to save us. We don't work for salvation we work from salvation.

He makes clear that if we have truly been saved, raised together with Christ, then the change on the inside will begins to manifest itself on the outside.

What does that look like?

We no longer walk as we used to walk. There is a new desire to live in a way that honors God.

We now seek those things that are above. No longer following the dictates of our flesh which is attracted to the things of this world. We now fight against and put to death the selfish, evil desires and sensual (sexual) sins that once dominated our lives.

We strip ourselves of our old man and its destructive emotions such as anger, hatred and vindictiveness. We no longer use profanity and we stay away from filthy talk.

Instead, as members of the body of Christ chosen and beloved of God, we cloth ourselves with compassion, kindness, and love bearing up with each other and forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven us.

The peace of God now rules in our hearts and his word dwells richly in us. Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving and worship to the Lord and everything we do we do is for His glory and done in His name.

We represent him in our relationships such marriage, parenting and even in our jobs as well as businesses.

Paul has covered a lot of practical things focusing on relationships within the Christian community.

Now in our opening passage he concludes his series of general exhortations with a focus outside the Christian community.

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Devote yourself to prayer (Use your words to talk to God)

Devote yourself, continue earnestly, be steadfast or be persistent in prayer.

To pray involves words and expressions. One of our main responsibilities as believers is to pray for people. Use your words for good. Pray!

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT) Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Luke 18:1 (NLT) One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT) Never stop praying.

Pray with an alert mind and a thankful heart (Being vigilant, watchful and grateful)

The enemy is always looking for ways to distract us from that which is important and prayer is our business. Especially prayer for effective ministry and the preaching of the gospel.

Colossians 4:3-4 (NLT) Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Paul is exhorting them to Pray that he would use his words to talk to people about God

Live wisely among the unbelievers (actions speak loudly)

Colossians 4:5 (NLT) Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

Our actions towards non-Christians must be controlled, with God's grace shining through our words and works.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT) “You are the light of the world, like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:43-45 (NLT) “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

People watch us every day and our actions speak louder than our words.

There is no better example of this than the scene that played out at the crucifixion. The Roman soldiers participate in the mocking, beating and crucifying of Christ. Yet, they never heard one word of defense, anger or complaint from Jesus. Instead, they watched and heard Him pray for their forgiveness as well as entrust the care for his mother to one of his disciples and even the promise hope of paradise to one of the thieves by his side.

In the end the actions of Jesus in the worst moment of his life had an impact of their lives.

Matthew 27:54 (NLT) The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, “This man truly was the Son of God!”

Let your words be gracious

Colossians 4:6 (NLT) *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

Ephesians 4:29 (GW) Don't say anything that would hurt another person. Instead, speak only what is good so that you can give help wherever it is needed. That way, what you say will help those who hear you.

(NLT) Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

I remember an old mentor who would say to me; “Remember that while words are in your mouth you control them but once you say them, they control you.”

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 16:24 (ESV) Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Again, we are reminded that as believers we are called to use our words for good. Let's use our words in prayer for people, use our words to share Christ with people, use our words to encourage to people and let our actions speak loudly that we are truly children of God.

If we have been raised with Christ than let us live like it!

