

## WISDOM WITH OUTSIDERS

*Colossians 4:5-6*

<sup>5</sup>Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. <sup>6</sup>Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Christians have a tendency to view themselves as a closed circle of believers and to see everyone else as “outsiders.” This is particularly true when a church is small and somewhat oppressed by people who don’t understand our faith.

Such a church was Colossae. Most of it was small enough to fit in the courtyard of a man such as Philemon’s house. The Jews had a synagogue. The pagans had temples, plus they were the larger population group. In such a context, each believer had to resist the urge to form a “holy huddle” and instead reach out to the unbelievers around them who were “outside” the church.

*Who did you meet last week that are outside of the church?*

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*What three things are to characterize our approach to those who are not believers (4:5-6)?*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*How can we “make the most of every opportunity” without compromise or hypocrisy?*

Making the most of opportunity is telling us one way to live wisely before those who are outside the church. This may not be in telling them the gospel every time in exactly the same way. Consider how Jesus varied his approach with Nicodemus (*John 3:3*) and with the Samaritan woman (*John 4:7*).

*What is “gracious and attractive” conversation (4:6)?*

*Why might our response vary with each person?*

*Going back to our study of Proverbs, what do these proverbs tell about how to respond?*

*Proverbs 15:23*

*Proverbs 16:24*

*Proverbs 17:28*

*Proverbs 25:15*

*Proverbs 27:9*

*Proverbs 26:4-5*

*How can you make the most of the opportunities God supplies?*