

Redeem the Time

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without redeeming the time

Most thoughtful parents spend time teaching their children about such things as: how to dress properly, especially little girls; how to talk, words they should use and not use; how to take care of hygiene, brush their teeth, bathing, taking care of hair etc.; manners, being thoughtful of others, older people, police, teachers etc.; teach little boys to be gentlemen and girls to be ladies; study; and in some homes being responsible; how to properly handle weapons, guns, rifles, knives, bows and arrows, darts. And most important in Christian homes, teach about Jesus Christ, the Bible and the importance of the church they attend etc.

All these are teaching a child how to live—‘walk’ in life.

But it is the responsibility of every pastor-teacher to carefully teach and teach (repetition) how the Christian, how one who has believed in Jesus Christ, is to walk, live their daily lives.

As babes in Christ, as growing in Christ and as mature in Christ.

And as it is in natural life, so it is in spiritual life, there are things that are fundamental to walking in Christian life.

First and most fundamental is to **Walk in the Holy Spirit**.

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Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If (since) we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (that is) let us walk in step with the Spirit.

Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

First: So, the first instructions as to the Christian walk is to walk by the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. This, of course, raises the question as to how? How do we walk by the Spirit? How do we keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

Second: This brings us to the second point on the Christian Walk.

Walk by faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—

Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

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And how did we receive Christ Jesus? By faith. But this raises the question, who is the object of our faith for the Christian walk? Here, combine the first walk, Walk in the Holy Spirit with the second, by faith. So, we walk by faith in the Holy Spirit.

Be it now understood that all the following spheres of the Christian walk can be done only in the power of the Holy Spirit by faith.

Third: **Walk in the newness of life**

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Now that we are born from above (John 3:3) or born again (1 Peter 1:23) that is, now that we are a new spiritual creation in Christ, we should no longer walk as we did as unbelievers.

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to

**(1) the course of this world, according to
(2) the prince of the power of the air (Satan),
(3) of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.**

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Ephesians 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in

(4) the lusts of our flesh,

(5) indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and

(6) were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

(See also Eph. 4:17; Col. 3:5-7)

But now that we are new creations in Christ we are to walk—live according to our new birth.

Fourth: **Worthy of who we are in Christ**

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Colossians 1:10 (we continually pray for you...) so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Next, we come to two spheres of the Christian walk that are directly related to our study in Colossians chapter 4.

Fifth: **Walk in love**

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Sixth: Walk in wisdom

Every born-again believer is to *walk in love*

Ephesians 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Almost everyone knows this—that we are to walk—live in love. But the problem is that many do not understand or know the love that the Word of God commands us to walk. This is not love from the flesh. This is not just the way *you or any individual* thinks about love, that **this** is the way love acts and by **this** they mean whatever **they** think it means. No, people, love is not whatever you think it is or should be.

Let's add to walking in love, that we are to **walk in wisdom.**

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Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

When you walk in wisdom, you should walk in love.

When you walk in love, you should walk in wisdom.

That is in Spiritual love—love poured into you by the Holy Spirit and Spiritual wisdom.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray

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for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom (wisdom given to you from the Bible by the Holy Spirit) and understanding,

Love without wisdom is destructive.

Wisdom without love is empty.

James tells us there are two sources of wisdom, one from God and the other from man.

James 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

James 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

James 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

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James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

What does love plus wisdom look like in human relationships?

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

There are those, even Christians, who would protest if a lazy person who refused to work, was hungry. Feed him! That is love without wisdom. God does not sponsor Socialism. People, we must be wise in our understanding and practice of love. In this context, love provides something that everyone or that anyone can actually do and then reward, pay, every person who works.

This is the principle of the gospel. God loves everyone who will be in the eternal Lake of Fire and He will love them for all eternity. The issue is to be benefited by love. He offered His love offering at the cross, but they (like the person who refuses to work) refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and therefore will spend eternity not benefiting from the love of God. In this respect love is a two-sided issue. First, we, as Spirit Filled believers, will love both unbelievers and believers. But whether or not they are benefited by this love is up to them.

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Let's note a human example: many men are loved by a woman but they are not benefited by that love because they refuse her love. Many ladies are loved by a man, but are not benefited by that love because they refuse his love in favor of someone else or something else.

Spiritual love or love that comes from the Holy Spirit does not accept or condone sin.

**1 Corinthians 13:6 spiritual love does not
rejoice in unrighteousness**

So many people today think that love accepts you no matter your lifestyle: adulterer, fornicator, homosexual, pedophile etc. Any and all of these are welcomed into our assembly---to learn the truth and to overcome these sinful patterns but certainly not to continue in them thinking we condone such activity. Love must have wisdom!

**2 Thessalonians 3:5 May the Lord direct your
hearts into the love of God and into the
steadfastness of Christ.**

**2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you,
brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ, that you keep away from every brother
who leads an unruly life and not according to
the tradition which you received from us.**

Not the 'tradition' the Roman Catholic Church teaches that absolute truth is derived from the Word of God and Tradition. Not So! The Greek word translated 'tradition' is from the Greek word *paradidomi* which means to

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deliver in teaching and our word means doctrine or injunction taught. This verse describes love of the Lord over love of one who practices a lifestyle that is not in keeping with the ‘doctrines’ taught in the Word of God.

The Challenge

Do you have the courage to love the Lord?

Many Christians have the courage to love the world, because then the world will not hate you, but the challenge is do you have the courage to love the Lord? Jesus tells us in John chapter 15 that if you love Him, you will be hated by the world. To love those who choose the world and live the way the world accepts and even encourages will not cost you anything in the world.

But, Oh, to love Jesus Christ, and to love His Word, this very well may cost you in this world. Cost you friends, relatives, jobs etc. Do you have the courage to love the Lord?

But even loving the Lord requires wisdom from above!

**Colossians 4:5 walk in wisdom toward them
that are without**

Actually, this is a Greek *adverb* used as a *substantive* with the *definite article* meaning ‘the ones outside.’ It comes from a small compound meaning *out, without as opposed to within*. This refers to all unbelievers who are in need of information on how to be saved. And you are their source!

1 Corinthians 10:32 refers to three classes of humans on the earth.

1 Corinthians 10:32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

The human population is made up of Jews, Gentiles and, in the Church Age, Christians. To the unbelieving Jew, and unbelieving Gentiles who are on the outside we are to walk in wisdom in regard to those on the outside.

Question: outside of what? Outside of the body of Christ!

And the reason they are ‘outside’ is not because of a chosen lifestyle, but because they have chosen to refuse the love offering of God, that is, His Son. They refuse to believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. They refuse to be ‘born’ into the family of God.

Question: Why the necessity of walking in wisdom in reference to those who are non-Christians?

In the New Commandment given by Jesus in John chapter 13 to love ‘*one another*,’ is a command of love toward others of the same kind, that is we are to love other believers. But this command in Colossians 4:5 is a direct command in respect of our relationship with unbelievers. We are to walk in wisdom!

This means we are to interact with them where they will be receptive to the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

Where is wisdom?

We saw last week how America is under a “Fundamental Transformation” well, not all Americans are buying into the change of our culture to a culture that encourages behavior that is an abomination to

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God behavior. If you are going to encourage Americans to accept and embrace this kind of behavior you must change this culture. America was built on Judeo-Christian culture. So, this culture must be changed. And this is exactly what Obama promised when he was President under the banner of ‘Fundamental Transformation.’ While this is wisdom from man it is not wisdom from above.

This is wisdom from man which is alarmingly described in

Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (And yes, America is quickly becoming an idolatrous nation.)

Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. (What goes on in your soul effects your body. A tattooed soul leads to a tattooed body.)

Romans 1:25 For they exchanged the **truth** of God for a **lie**, and worshiped and served the **creature** rather than the **Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Romans 1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the **natural** function for that which is **unnatural**.

Romans 1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Romans 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, (not capable of even recognizing wisdom from above) **to do those things which are not proper**,

Romans 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full

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of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips,

Romans 1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

Romans 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

Romans 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

But not everyone is going to give into this cultural change. And they are looking for another solution. They are looking for wisdom from above. And they will be attracted to this kind of love.

Deuteronomy 4:6 “So keep and do *them*, (*things of wisdom from above*) for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

Only now in the Church Age they will be saying that of Christians who love in wisdom.

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It is remarkable the number of Muslims turning to the love of Christ in the Middle East; or the number of Chinese under Communist rule who are turning to Jesus Christ.

So, don't worry about the voices of Satan who attack love in wisdom. Many Christians know the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit of Galatians chapter 5 but it is the closing words that are important today.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit (that He will pour into every believer who walks by faith in Him) **is love** (spiritual love), **joy, peace**, (inner happiness and inner peace regardless of the outer circumstance) **patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

People, there is no law, under Communism or Socialism against you and I walking by faith in the Holy Spirit and living by the power and guidance of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 4:5 walk in wisdom toward them that are without (That is, unbelievers. Now, the powerful closing words) **redeeming the time**

redeeming. This is the *Present Middle Participle* of the compound Greek verb 'to redeem.' The word is derived from the preposition *ek* meaning *out or out from* plus the verb *agorazo* meaning *to buy*. The verb means to buy, to ransom, to redeem. Of course, this is the verb used to

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teach our redemption by Christ from the curse and yoke of the law. Galatians 3:13 and 4:5. The *present tense* means that we must be ready to walk in wisdom toward the unbeliever whenever we come in contact with an unbeliever. This means we are to walk moment by moment in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit...by faith. And the *Middle voice* emphasizes that you are the agent of giving the outsider, the unbeliever the good news of the Gospel. And the *participle* corresponds with the *imperative to walk*—when the believer is walking in wisdom he is redeeming the time:

Colossians 4:5 ...walk in wisdom, redeeming the time

But what are we redeeming in our passage? **Time.**

The word used for time is important here. The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of the New Testament states in reference to this word: “season, opportune time. It is not merely as a succession of minutes, which is *chronos*, but a period of opportunity (though not necessity). There is really no English equivalent to the word *kairos*.”

So, in our study this word is used in a double reference.

First: the opportune time of your life in history.

Second: time remaining in the Church Age.

Summary

1. In context, redeeming the time refers to the believer’s responsibility to the unbelievers he comes into daily contact.
2. The mandate of this verse is defined in

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2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (If one is not 'in Christ' he is 'outside' of Christ.)

2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, (Colossians 4:5)

2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world (unbelievers) to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, (because Jesus Christ took the judgment for all sins on Himself on the cross) and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on

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behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (This is walking in wisdom toward those who are outside of Jesus Christ.)

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

3. The Christian life has 3 directions of responsibility:

(1) Toward the Godhead:

God the Holy Spirit: faith;

Jesus Christ: to love Him, to love as He loves and to witness of Him. And toward

God the Father: effective prayer life.

(2) Toward others:

toward believers: love them as Christ loves
toward unbelievers—walk in wisdom in witnessing to them of Christ.

This is where, how we dress, speak and act in public becomes a manner of wisdom. This life is characterized by: Ready to forgive all as you are forgiven by God in Christ. Ephesians 4:32 and by the Greek word *makrothumia* which is longsuffering towards others in life.

(3) toward life which is characterized by the Greek word *hupomone* which refers to patience in regards to all the difficulties of life.

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4. Redeeming the time is essential for every believer. Not waste time in our lives. A current analogy is the high school or college students taking final exams. They can waste time and not study, not prepare or they can redeem the time by studying for finals. And so, in the Christian life, we can waste time on things of this world or we can redeem time by spending beneficial time on things above.

Colossians 3:1 Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.