



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

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Wisdom to Answer with Grace: Sword Tip #1543

By Joe Price

Col 4:5-6, Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. (NKJV)

Wisdom is the application of known truth, at the right time and in the right measure. It is the use of spiritual discernment, in love and knowledge, to advance the excellent things of righteousness that glorify God and approve us in His sight (Philippians 1:9-11). When we flavor our words with graciousness we walk in wisdom by making the most of our opportunities toward the lost. Like food seasoned with salt, wisdom learns when and how to answer those who are outside of Christ (as well as fellow Christians) so that our opportunity to teach and persuade others is maximized. Put simply, we have an obligation to give gracious answers to others. Wisdom knows this, and helps us speak so as to enhance, not disrupt, our chance to communicate truth to others. Unless we season our words with grace we fail to redeem our opportunity to help someone follow Jesus.

The Tongues of Teachers: Sword Tip #1938

By Joe Price

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. (James 3:1, NKJV)

James sets his context for mature control over the tongue (Jas. 3:2-5). The teacher of God's word will be judged for the teaching he does and the words he uses in that work. Every responsibility one has will be judged; James is not singling out teachers expect to emphasize that teaching comes with judgment – an incentive to be mature in the use and control of our tongues. 1) God will judge what a teacher teaches. We must teach the revealed word of God, not opinions, and the will of men (1 Cor. 2:1-5; Acts 20:20-27). Teachers must be careful to speak God's word (2 Tim. 4:2; Gal. 1:8-9). Teach truth, not error. 2) God will judge how a teacher teaches. Paul explained this to Timothy: "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition" (2 Tim. 2:24-25). Coupled with "rightly dividing the word of truth," Timothy would know how to teach effectively. 3) God will judge why a teacher teaches. Paul continued, "if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25). We teach the gospel to save souls, not to commend ourselves before men (1 Cor. 1:23-24; Col. 1:28; Matt. 23:6-8). As teachers, may our tongues speak words that honor God and accomplish His will in the hearts and lives of men. Be careful teachers; judgment is coming.

Are We TEACHING or RANTING?

By Jerry Edwards

Teaching is all about taking someone where we find them and helping them take the NEXT step in understanding the facts / truth.

Ranting is all about spouting our understanding (which may or may not be true). Ranting ignores what the other person thinks and what they need to learn next and focuses on our own conclusions. Ranting is all about what we think and not about what the other person needs. Ranting prefers slogans to instruction. It prefers memes over explanation. Ranting ignores the long process by which we reached our own conclusions and goes for the throat. Ranting causes strife. Ranting is not gentle. Ranting is not an effective teaching strategy. Ranting is not patient or meek.

The BIBLE never says to RANT, but it does say, over and over, to TEACH and the object of that teaching is never to prove "I AM RIGHT" but rather to bring each hearer to repentance.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach,

patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

LET ME GIVE SOME EXAMPLES: I can tell a child that if they add 657 to 765 that will get 1422. However, they will not know how I arrived at that answer unless they already know multiple column addition and how to carry-over with sums over 9 in value. Without that knowledge they could well give the answer = 1312. They would have done each column addition correctly, but not included the carry-over values. WE MUST TEACH THE FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS FIRST! A more advanced example could be the problem of adding 111+111. We could assume that the answer is 222. However, what if we are writing in binary instead of a base 10 system. In binary, 111 is equivalent to the base ten value of 7. So the actual answer would be 14 when converted from binary to base ten. SO WE MUST KNOW THE SYSTEM / AUTHORITY FOR ASSIGNING VALUE TO THE NUMBERS. It is the same in any discussion: political, religious, etc. We must explain the steps by which a conclusion is derived. Simple steps come first and only after mastery at that level can we reasonably expect someone to understand/learn the next step. Additionally, there must be agreement upon the system or basis of authority which is being used. We can never argue logic with a person who uses their feelings as the basis for their authority. They will always be right in their own mind. This is true in politics and religion. Likewise we cannot argue a point of logic about the constitution with someone who relies on their own interpretation of it rather than simply accepting what it says (what the founders intended.) In religion, when people do not accept the BIBLE as GOD's revelation - unchangeable and eternal - and that GOD said what HE meant and meant what HE said, we cannot simply quote the BIBLE to "prove" our point. We must first agree to follow the same authority. To do this we must start with their own understanding and lead them step by step to accept the BIBLE as complete, "not of private interpretation", and as the final (absolute) authority! That means our own feelings, majority opinions, etc. cannot veto anything the BIBLE teaches.

THIS ALSO MEANS WE MUST KNOW OUR AUDIENCE! This is practically impossible to do with PUBLIC posts on Facebook. Be careful of your audience and make public posts basic and deal with first steps in learning. Only in private messages can expect to learn about your audience and progress from their NEXT step to more advanced instruction. FOCUS ON THEM!!!

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April's medicine is being adjusted to help with dizziness
- David & Catherine are traveling
- Ray recovering from hip replacement surgery and Ginger is sick also.
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Sabin's, friends of Brenda Empey
- Jaella Kreh during her pregnancy
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) continues in Hospice Care
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – David Porter
Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ben Palmer
Invitation – David Porter

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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