

Savior Supreme
Syncretism, Sectarianism and the Christian
Colossians 4:5-6

Syncretism is complete embrace of the culture, and sectarianism is complete withdrawal from the culture, neither of which should define the Christian experience. Looking back in church history and even as late as the 20th century church, we see the pendulum swinging, moving from syncretism to sectarianism and back. So we need to slow the pendulum swing. Colossians shows us what it means for the believer to be in the world but not of the world.

1. Believers are to _____ in wisdom
2. Believers are to _____ their words
3. Believers are to _____ for Christ in context

Too many believers are afraid that they don't know enough to share the gospel. They are afraid of getting asked questions they can't answer. In Corinth, Paul presumed to know nothing except Christ and Him crucified. So let's at least start there. We must simply trust that the Holy Spirit will use our inadequate conversation to draw people to himself. It will not be our persuasive words drawing people to Christ. Only the Spirit draws people to Christ. We must simply have the courage to enter into the conversation.

Reflection

What does it look like for you to walk in wisdom? What will it look like this week? Consider any opportunities to share Christ's love that you may have wasted this week. What can change in your life so that these opportunities are not wasted in the future? Is your conversation filled with grace and seasoned with salt, or would others just describe it as salty? Are you speaking joy and life into the people around you or are they avoiding you to escape your negativity and bitterness? What verses would you use to point people to the gospel given the various contexts of your conversations?