



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Effective Evangelism**

**Date: August 18, 2024**

**Scripture Text: Colossians 4:2-6**

**Notes:**

Jesus' parting words as He ascended to heaven as recorded in the books of Matthew ([28:18-20](#)) and Acts ([1:8](#)) was for His followers to make disciples of all nations, from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and the utter most parts of the world. This was His final charge for those who followed Him (His disciples) to take all He had taught them and share the gospel message with the world. As His disciples today, we have the same charge, to take what He taught us in His word and to share the gospel with the world. To do so effectively, we must be intentional and weave it into our day-to-day life. In today's sermon we look at 3 keys to effective evangelism.

**I. Pray Faithfully ([Colossians 4:2-4](#))**

The faithful prayer has 4 elements: 1. Pray Persistently; always being aware of the presence of God, 2. Pray Watchfully; be alert, expecting to see God's answer, 3. Pray Thankfully; thanking God for the opportunity to pray and for opportunities to share, and 4. Pray Purposefully; totally depending on God and following His lead as you engage others.

- Concerning the 4 elements of praying faithfully, which do you find the most difficult?
- What are practical ways to practice each element?
- Think of someone who you could faithfully pray for their salvation?
- Write a brief prayer in the side margin that includes all 4 elements.
- How can praying faithfully help you be more effective at evangelism?

**II. Walk Wisely ([Colossians 4:5](#))**

If we are going to talk the talk, we must also walk the walk. Our actions impact how readily someone will hear our words. You may share what it means to be a Christian, but the world is watching you to see what it looks like to live as a Christian. The phrase '*make the most*' comes from the verb "to buy up", as if finding a bargain. If you are at the store picking up an item on sale, you're going to be direct, intentional and doing what you can so you don't lose the opportunity to take advantage of the sale. Similarly, we need to wisely take opportunities when we engage others.

- What does it look like to 'walk the walk'?
- Why do our actions need to be consistent with our words?
- How would you describe a Christian who does not live consistent with the gospel?
- How can walking wisely help you be more effective at evangelism?



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Notes:

### III. Speak Gracefully ([Colossians 4:6](#))

“For the sharing of the message of Christ to be effective, the wise walk must be accompanied with flavorful talk. The believer’s talk is to be gracious, rather than gruff, and charming, rather than coarse.” (Anders) As you engage others, you need to be just as intentional in your engagement as expressing love and truth to them ([Eph. 4:15](#)).

- Why is coarse speaking usually not received well?
- What are examples of graceful, flavorful speaking.
- Why is it important to speak truth in love (why is the combo of truth and love important)?
- How can speaking gracefully help you be more effective at evangelism?

Believers are exhorted to right conduct towards unbelievers. Be careful in all converse with them, to do them good, and recommend religion by all fit means. Diligence in redeeming time, commends religion to the good opinion of others. Even what is only carelessness may cause a lasting prejudice against the truth. Let all discourse be discreet and seasonable, as becomes Christians. Though it be not always of grace, it must always be with grace. Though our discourse be of that which is common, yet it must be in a Christian manner. Grace is the salt which seasons our discourse, and keeps it from corrupting. It is not enough to answer what is asked, unless we answer aright also.

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)