

## Walk in Wisdom

**Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men [fools] but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.** (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Why should we walk in wisdom, or wisely? To act with wisdom is to be able to exercise discernment or good judgment based on what is true or right. God wants us to understand His will so that we are able to discern the truth from evil and not be foolish in our thoughts or actions. In Ephesians 4:17-32, we are exhorted not to walk in the futility of our mind (unwisely or foolishly), nor are we to lie or steal, be bitter or slanderous, or do anything else that would grieve the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Paul continued with the exhortation for us to avoid participating in the following things: immorality, impurity, greed, filthy talk, empty words (false doctrine or foolish speculation), or any other sinful activities (Ephesians 5:3-12). To avoid doing these things, we must walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-2) and walk wisely.

We must remember that the gospel of salvation is viewed as foolish by the nonbelieving world (I Corinthians 1:18-25). Additionally, those who stand for Christ are considered to be fools (I Corinthians 4:10). This type of foolishness is honorable to God. However, we must not be fools in any other way, but be wise.

We are also exhorted to conduct ourselves with wisdom so that we can make the most of opportunities as they present themselves. It is hard to share the gospel of salvation with someone who might not be saved, or the things of God with a fellow believer, when that person knows by our words or actions that we are hypocrites—our credibility is compromised. All believers sin, so sinning in itself is not hypocritical. We should endeavor to live according to God's will, but humbly recognize that we will continue to sin (see Paul's personal struggle with sin in Romans 7:7-25). However, if we are known for lying, being slanderous, getting drunk, attending wild parties, immorality, cheating, being arrogant, etc., then our hypocritical behavior is a stumbling block to our witness for Christ and is dishonoring to God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Conduct yourselves with [Walk in] wisdom toward outsiders [nonbelievers], making the most of the opportunity.** (Colossians 4:5)

For us to truly walk wisely in this evil age, we need to know who we are in Christ (what God has done and is doing for us through Christ) and how God wants us to live (His will for us as His children). We need to endeavor to present ourselves as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, and to do so requires that we rightly divide, or accurately handle, the Scriptures (II Timothy 2:15; Romans 6:12-13; 12:1-2). God's word, rightly divided, provides all the guidance we need to live as we ought and to walk wisely and worthy of our salvation (II Timothy 3:16-17).