

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Colossians 4:3-6
Matthew 12:34
John 17:15
1 Corinthians 2:1-2

September 6, 2026

If Paul’s job is to make the “mystery of Christ” clear, it is the Colossians’ job (and ours) as well. Paul tells us we must also learn to speak with grace and use every opportunity to do so. Beginning in prayer for others, listening to their stories, sharing meals, serving each other, and sharing the good news of Jesus are ways we can bless them and grow in maturity.

Who are the not-yet-believers in your own life? In what spaces do you interact with them? Have you had opportunities to share about who Jesus is to you?

Grace in speech and hearts – “Gracious” in speech presupposes grace in our hearts as well. We cannot expect grace to flow out of us if we haven’t first experienced it. Grace flows through us, too, and comes out in kindness with words that are “seasoned with salt.” It is thoughtful speech flowing from a transformed, grateful heart.

How would you describe your own speech? How would others around you characterize it?

Question: Do we understand our own salvation? We must have some personal understanding if we are going to be plain to outsiders. Have you come face to face with your own story and your need for redemption? Do you spend intentional time with God? Paul is saying that when Jesus enters our life through the Holy Spirit, He transforms and changes us to where we have new priorities. *He defines* what the believer in Christ should look, walk, and act like.

Syncretism vs Sectarianism – Syncretism is when the church elevates the culture over the Gospel and reflects the values and beliefs of our world. Sectarianism is when we elevate the church over the Gospel, and there is a complete withdrawal from culture. The Bible advocates against both views. We are called to live among outsiders, extending Biblical love and hospitality.

Are you drawn toward either syncretism or sectarianism? How can we balance hospitality with submission to Jesus?

1. **Walk in wise ways in front of those who don’t believe** – We are to have wisdom toward outsiders. Is our life selfish, or are we being agents of reconciliation?
2. **Does how we speak lead people to hear of Jesus?** – Paul says, “Let your talk be gracious.” Why? Because our mouth reveals something about our heart. Paul asks, “Is there evidence of God’s grace in your life? Are you able to extend the forgiveness you’ve been given?”
3. **Have an answer** – Realize not everyone is the same. We want to remind legalists what the Gospel truly teaches. We remind those questioning how God operates in areas we don’t understand. We remind nominal followers that Jesus gave His life for us. Hearing what Paul says is important; he professed Christ—crucified and risen for us.

Who can you be praying for together? How can you intentionally seek to BLESS them this week?

What is our testimony to outsiders? Is it that Jesus is good and wants to reconcile us to God? We should be plain about what Jesus has done in our own life and what He can do for others.



BLESS *rhythms*

Everyday Rhythms for Ordinary Disciple-Makers

*Start simple,
follow in faith.*

Jesus is actively working in people's lives and He changes hearts.
We get to join Him! B.L.E.S.S. is a simple, memorable framework
to intentionally participate with Jesus in the everyday.

B

BEGIN
IN
PRAYER



Identify not-yet-believing
friends/family you seek
to BLESS.

Pray daily for Jesus to
soften their hearts and
reveal Himself to them.

L

LISTEN



Listen to their story
(including their desires
& needs), and to the Holy
Spirit for guidance.

E

EAT
TOGETHER



Extend hospitality, share
meals, and build real
relationships.

S

SERVE



Look for practical
ways to serve them
in a loving way.

S

SHARE



Share your story & God's
True Story and invite into
further good news
conversations.

As we pray, listen, eat, and serve,
opportunities to share our story will arise.
We don't have to force it. We can be prepared
and we desire to be ready because **Jesus is on the move.**



ELEMENT
christian church

MAKING DISCIPLES.
TOGETHER.



BLESS *five*

Who are **5 people** God has placed in your life that don't yet
follow Jesus? Pray for them and look for everyday
opportunities to bless them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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