

# Wisdom When Dealing with Others

Colossians 4:5-6

Introduction: No one intentionally plans to fail in their relationships with people. Yet, some people can make it very difficult to get along with them. The Lord knows He has asked us to work in a world of very difficult people. To be effective, we will have to employ some wisdom in order to get along with difficult people (Matt. 10:16). Our lesson is designed to impart some wisdom when dealing with others (Col. 4:5-6).

I. Listen before speaking (Jas. 1:19).

II. Watch your words (Jas. 3:2-6; Eph. 4:29; Matt. 12:36-37).

III. Always conduct yourself well (Jas. 3:13).

- A. Poor conduct gives the other party a reason not to listen.
- B. Do something good and then tell no one.

IV. Keep your word (Eccl. 5:2-5).

- A. No matter what (Matt. 5:37). For example (Jos. 9:3-21; Judg. 11:30-39).
- B. Ask yourself if you would like it if God was as slack with His promises as you are with your promises (2 Pet. 3:9).

V. Show interest in others (Rom. 12:15; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:25-26).

- A. Try to be encouraging.
- B. Say something you can honestly say good about someone you don't like, especially when that person's name is brought up in a conversation.

VI. Don't be argumentative (Rom. 14:1; 2 Tim. 2:23-26; Prov. 15:1).

- A. Argue but pick your battles.
- B. Never engage in an argument over doubtful, ignorant or foolish disputes.
- C. If criticizing, ask if it is to help or to hurt.

VII. Don't take attacks personally (Matt. 5:11-12; 1 Pet. 4:16; Gal. 6:9).

Conclusion: Can we convert anyone to Christ if we can't get along with others? Is it possible that more souls are lost by our attitude than are gained through an honest discussion of God's word? Wisdom dictates that we utilize God's word when dealing with others.