

THE VISION

ENGAGING WITH WISDOM



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Christian **families committed** to the shalom of  
their neighbors



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Christian **families committed** to the shalom of  
their neighbors

We will build real relationships  
with those providentially in our Jerusalem,  
through prayer and action,  
with **grace** and **wisdom** and truth,  
being attractively winsome,  
tearing down walls, building up trust,  
doing the work of the Kingdom.

How shall we then **engage**?

with **Grace** and **Wisdom**

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech **always** be with **grace**, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6

If any of you lack **wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives **generously** to all without reproach, and it will be given to Him.

-James 1:5

That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him,  
“Ask for whatever you want Me to give you.”

-2 Chronicles 1:7

*and God was pleased with Solomon's request,  
why?*

Solomon wanted wisdom  
**for the shalom of his people**

if the fruit of the Holy Spirit is primarily for others...

then maybe wisdom isn't just for me, either



Who is **wise** and understanding among you? By his **good conduct** let him show his **works** in the meekness of **wisdom**. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the **wisdom** that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the **wisdom** from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and **good fruits**.

-James 3:13-17

the Golden Key to getting wisdom:

ask for **yourself**...and you will probably  
get **nothing**

ask for the **shalom of others**, and you will  
get it **generously**

and we need both **wisdom** and **grace** to  
engage our neighbors

# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

**wisdom** considers 'them'

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom toward outsiders**, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6



# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

**wisdom** considers 'them'

- ♦ Life stage/family structure
- ♦ Situation/needs/issues
- ♦ Personality/spiritual state

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom toward outsiders**, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6

# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

opportunity - *kairos* (season, epoch)

making the most - *exagorazo* (redeem)

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as **wise**, making the most (**exagorazo**) of the opportunity (**kairos**), because the days are evil.

-Ephesians 5:15-16

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, **making the most** of the **opportunity**. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

-Colossians 4:5-6

eks-ah-go-rah'-zoh

Gal 3:13, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law...

# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

learn how to 'season' our speech

not a "cookie cutter" approach

and

not according to our script

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

Let your speech always be with grace, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you might know how to respond to **each person**.

-Colossians 4:5-6

# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

learn how to 'listen'

develop the **art of listening**

not a "prep time" for our next words

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might **know how to respond** to **each person**.

-Colossians 4:5-6



# Applying Neighborly Wisdom

learn how to 'binah'

engaging with **wisdom** and **understanding**

So from now on we regard no one  
from a **worldly point of view**.

-2 Corinthians 5:16

a brief look at the  
**heart** and the **mind**

a brief look at the  
**heart** and the **mind**

which is the “thinker”?

which is the “feeler”?

For as a man **thinks** in his **heart**, so is he.

“Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his **heart** is not with you.

-Proverbs 23:7

For as a man **thinks** in his **heart**, so is he.

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-Proverbs 23:7

In your **hearts** do not **think** evil of each other. -Zechariah 7:10

Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were **thinking** in their **hearts**.

-Mark 2:8

The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the **thoughts** of the human **heart** was only evil all the time. -Genesis 6:5

This child is destined...to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the **thoughts** of many **hearts** will be revealed... -Luke 2:34-35

Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a **thought** in your heart. -Acts 8:22

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts** and attitudes of the **heart**.

-Hebrews 4:12

The fool **says** in his **heart**, “There is no God.” -Psalms 14:1

if the heart “**thinks**” and has  
“**thoughts**”...then what is the  
difference between the **heart** and  
the **mind**?

good question

Board work starts here on the right  
screen

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

-Matthew 15:19



Man looks at the outward appearance, but the  
LORD looks at the **heart**. -1 Samuel 16:7

...you alone know each human **heart**. -1 Kings 8:39

...you probe my **heart**... -Psalms 17:3



Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an **undivided heart**, that I may fear your name.

-Psalms 86:11





moving the **Royal Law** from  
our mind to our heart


Do we really believe that  
what we believe  
is really real?

## Engaging with **Wisdom**


because we need both **wisdom** and **grace**  
to engage our neighbors

So from now on we regard no one  
from a **worldly point of view**.

-2 Corinthians 5:16



The neighbor across the street...



The neighbor across the street...

Surprise!

*Rosaria and Pastor Kent Butterfield*

Do we see “events” in our lives as  
obstacles to our script...

or opportunities in the Meta-Narrative  
brought by the sovereign hand of God?





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their neighbors

We will build real relationships  
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with **grace** and **wisdom** and truth,  
being attractively winsome,  
**tearing down walls, building up trust,**  
doing the work of the Kingdom.

building up | burning down

It may take years to **build up** a deep relationship,  
it takes but a moment to **destroy it**

The Black Forest trees took 40, 50, 100 years to grow... it took only the sweep of a raging fire hours to destroy them





The homes and possessions in the Black Forest represented years of work and time

even generations... a raging fire hours destroyed them in minutes



# The Vision

Christian **families committed** to the shalom of  
their neighbors

and it doesn't matter who they are...

- ♦ atheist
- ♦ skeptic
- ♦ angry at God
- ♦ hates Christians
- ♦ a Vinegar Man

There is one kind of neighbor that the Scripture says it will be nearly impossible to reach...

...a prophet is not without honor except in his home town, and among his own relatives and in his own household.

-Mark 6:4

Hank is someone's son

Whose son is living next door to you?

But God is bringing many **sons** to glory!

-Hebrews 2:10

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as **sons**. And because you are **sons**, God has sent the **Spirit** of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a **son**, and if a **son**, then an heir through God.

Why does God send?  
Because He is bringing many sons to glory! ... through you and me!

-Galatians 4:4-7



But God is bringing many **sons** to glory!


-Hebrews 2:10



We are a continuing part of the  
**Seed Line!**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to **redeem** those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as **sons**. And because you are **sons**, God has sent the **Spirit** of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a **son**, and if a **son**, then an **heir** through God. -Galatians 4:4-7

Why does God send?  
Because He is bringing many sons to  
glory! ... through you and me!

A close-up, low-angle shot of a field of golden wheat. The stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with some blurred in the background. The lighting is warm and soft, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The sky is a pale, hazy blue-green color.

you are a seed...  
producing a hundred-fold...

one neighbor at a time...  
because Christ's love compels us