

“It’s Just a Joke”

Colossians 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. **6** Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

What you say and how you say it is more important than you might think. Satan is good at attacking the credibility of Christians who are trying to spread the gospel with their lives by getting them to slip up with their words. Satan might try to get you angry, so that you get worked up and think less about your words. Or, he might try to get you comfortable. He might try to make you laugh, as though “it’s just a joke.”

Christians need to be careful when taking part in humorous behavior. We also need to filter what we find humorous. Consider what Paul wrote,

Ephesians 5:3-4

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; **4** neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

It can be easy to fall into uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, and coarse jesting when we are even just laughing among friends. Since they wear the name of Jesus, Christians need to be aware of what taking part in humor like that listed above can do to their opportunities to spread the gospel. Christian conduct needs to be pure, a good example, and reflective of Jesus.

I have nothing against a good sense of humor, but a Christian needs to remember to keep things they say and participate in within the bounds of:

- Being an example
- Speech seasoned with salt
- No foolish talking
- No coarse jesting

- Nothing filthy
- With grace

Christians often rightfully apply Colossians 3:16, “...Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” to the worship service. Imagine if we gave that same amount of care and reverence to the things we say and do every day!