



## Winsome People

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let me share a small thought with few questions before you,

Are you someone devoted to prayer?

Are you aware that your testimony matters?

Are you gracious in your speech?

Are you a good and a patient listener?

Yes, when we live a Christian life, these small things have to be taken care of. We live in a society where people are frustrated, full of agony, anxious, depressed and without hope. In such a situation, can they trust us? Can they share their pains without hesitation? Can we lead them to Christ? Can we be winsome people?

A winsome Christian is one who is dependent on God, walks in wisdom towards outsiders and is gracious in speech.

2 Corinthians 2:15 says “We are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing”.

I believe all Christians should be winsome. If we truly obey the Bible, there should be attractiveness about how we conduct ourselves in the way we say and we do.

As we help bear others' burdens, we must do it with winsomeness. We must be winsome to encourage and convince younger generations to believe and follow Christ. Jesus said we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. Light exposes and makes dark places bright. Salt attracts, flavours and preserves to make things better. Our winsomeness should act as a **light**, uplifting others to seek the radiance of Christ and like **salt**, help comfort and sustain them in Christian hood.

We can be winsome only if we have the following qualities:

Firstly, we can be winsome if we have a vital **dependence** and **communication** with the living God. This can happen only through a **Prayerful life**. When other people

reveal their problems as huge as a mountain, we can submit it to God in faith, through prayer for apt solutions.

Secondly, our **Testimony** matters. People watch whether we truly walk the talk. They judge us if we are Christians of inheritance. We represent Christ in this world. The fact that we got saved and have been made into a new creation in Christ is the proof that God is alive, active and lovingly concerned about us. Even the simplest of Testimonies are enough to inspire, to challenge and to ignite faith to grow. The way we live must always attract our fellow beings to Christ. **Ephesians 5:15-17** “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”

Thirdly. Our **speech** is very important. It eventually reveals our character. Our speech should give life not destroy. It should build relationship not divide. **1 Peter 4:11** says Christian should speak as the “Oracles of God”. **Matthew 12:34** “For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of”.

**Colossians 4:6**

Let our speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Winsome people have the power to edify, to exhort, and to console their fellow beings in Christ.

Fourthly, winsome people should be good, effective and **patient listeners**. When a person is in grief, pain or some kind of crisis, they turn to someone they can share it with. Our presence and keen **listening** is a ministry because it helps people to diffuse their emotions and stress.

**Proverbs 18:13** “To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech”.

**Philippians 2:3** “Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.”

Good **listening** flows from a humble heart that counts others more significant than oneself. Good listening is true means of grace in Christian fellowship. It is the channel through which God continues to pour His grace in the lives of others.

Job's friends try to counsel him without listening and empathizing with his sufferings.

Few characters in Bible who displayed winsomeness were Daniel and his friends, Saul and Tabitha. They were filled with divine grace and the beauty of Jesus was seen in them.

The way we live, the way we speak and the way we deal makes nonbelievers ask "why do you live so differently than others?"

Let us all be winsome people revealing and proclaiming the gospel of Christ.

**Sr. Sibi Thomas Chengannur 001**