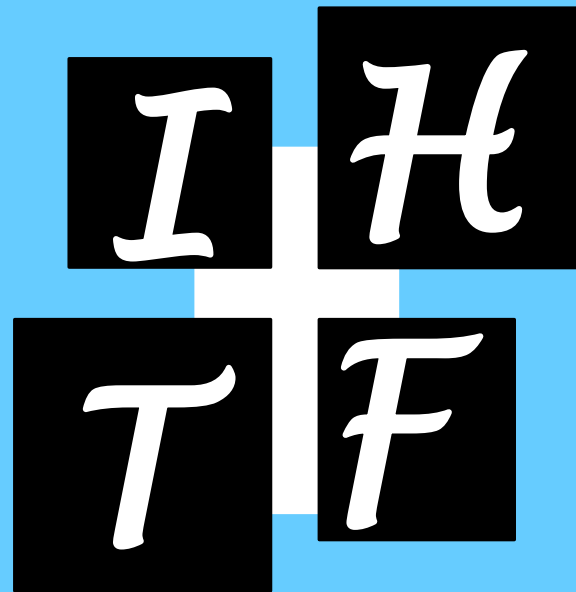


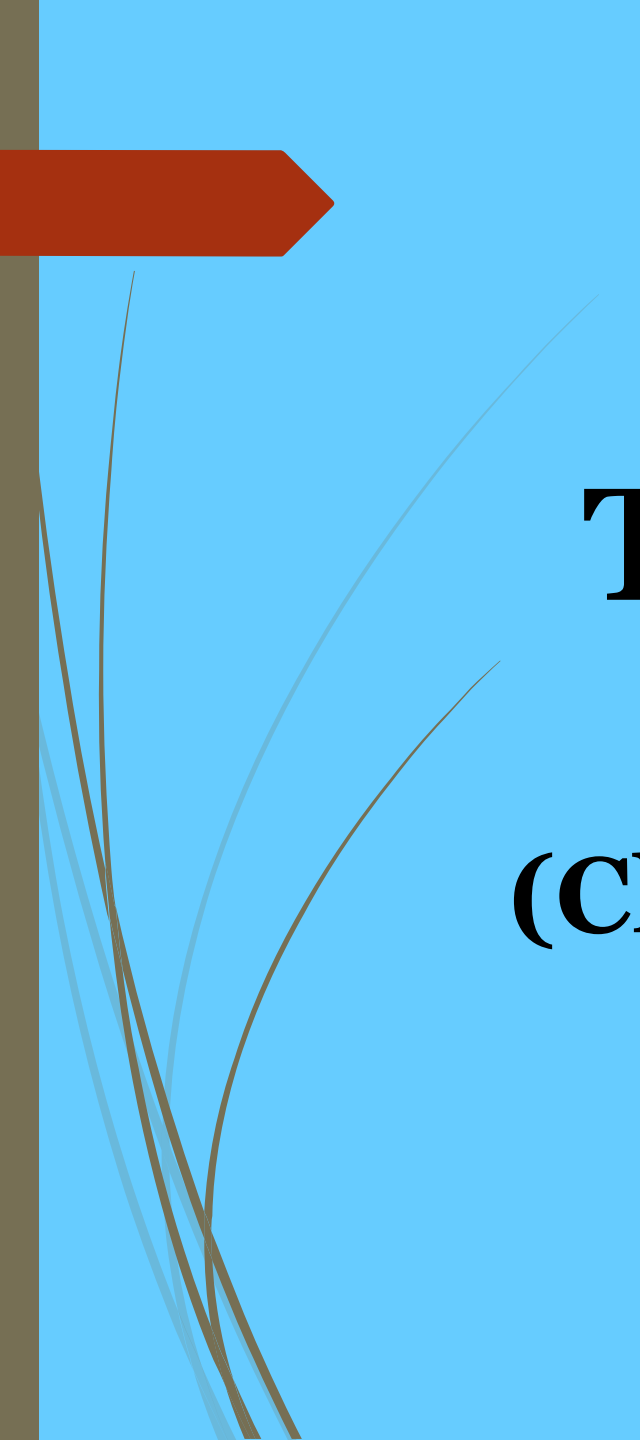


INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM SMYRNA-VININGS, GA, USA

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15TH December 2024



THE ACCENT OF GRACE

(Christian Character Series)

Christlike Accent

Matthew 26:73

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.”

If you have lived outside your native country, city, town or village, someone must have occasionally asked you, “You have an accent. Where do you come from?” People notice you when you do not sound like them and are always intrigued. When Jesus was brought before the Chief Priest Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin for trial, someone noticed that Peter had the accent of a Galilean, same as Jesus, and therefore inferred that He was Jesus’ disciple. Peter vehemently denied this association. Do you speak like someone who “sounds” a little like Jesus? Is your speech seasoned with grace like Jesus? Is your “accent” Christlike? Do you sound like one who has been forgiven and found a new birth in Christ, and whose word and spirit now dwell in you? Can you be associated with Jesus because of your “accent?”

The Accent of Jesus is Full of Grace

Galatians 2:19-21

19 “For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Luke 4:22

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

A believer is someone who proclaims to have been crucified with Christ and no longer lives outside of Christ; but Christ lives in him or her, and therefore they live a life of faith in Jesus in this body. Whatever comes out of our lips must sound like Jesus, must be seasoned with grace, so that those around us will see that we have a special accent, the “accent of grace,” because of the transformation of the use of our tongue.

Seasoned With Salt

Colossians 4:6

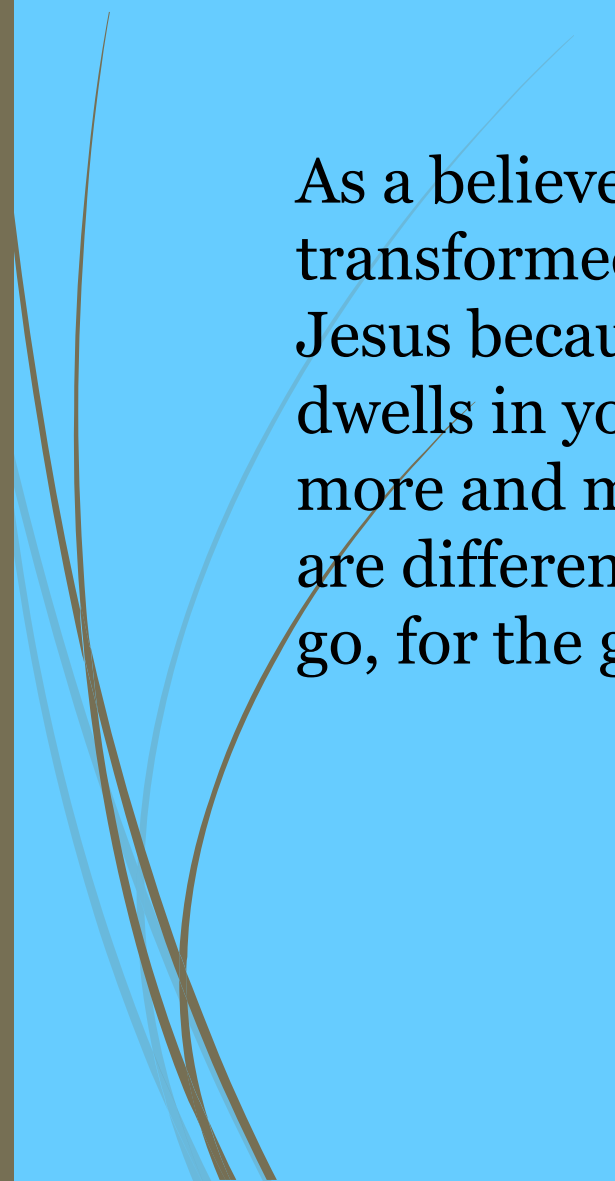
Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

As believers, we are exhorted to let our conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt. Here are some characteristics of a salt-seasoned conversation:

- it brings a positive change in the flavor of any conversation it is part of by adding value
- it preserves the wholesomeness of the atmosphere it is part of
- it is uplifting and helpful
- it is truthful
- it acknowledges and honors God
- it blesses but not curse
- it is always thankful



Take Away



As a believer, you have been saved by God's grace and are being transformed into the image of Christ. Therefore you must sound like Jesus because of the transformation of the use of your tongue as Jesus dwells in you. May the Holy Spirit strengthen our "accent" to sound more and more like Christ each day so that our hearers will know we are different. May our speech be found to be Christlike everywhere we go, for the glory of the Lord. Amen!