

**How We Win the Respect of Unbelievers**  
**Unstoppable, Pt. 7**  
**1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**  
**February 18, 2024**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1**, Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. **2** We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. **3** We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:12**, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**, He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

**Four Ways to Earn the Respect of the Unbelievers:**

**1. We Live in a Loving WAY**

**1 Thessalonians 4:9**, Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. **10** And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,

**Romans 12:9**, Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

**Galatians 5:22**, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...

**John 13:34**, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**John 15:12**, My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**2. We Live Quiet and Peaceful LIVES**

**1 Thessalonians 4:11**, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life:

**Romans 12:17**, Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

**1 Timothy 2:1**, I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

**1 Kings 18:17**, When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" **18** "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals.

### 3. We Mind Our Own BUSINESS

**1 Thessalonians 4:11**, ... You should mind your own business...

**Matthew 7:1**, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. **2** For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **3** “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? **4** How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

**Proverbs 16:28**, A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

**Proverbs 20:3**, It is to one’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

### 4. We Work to Provide For Our Families and OTHERS

**1 Thessalonians 4:11**, ... and work with your hands, just as we told you, **12** so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**2 Thessalonians 3:7**, For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, **8** nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. **9** We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. **10** For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” **11** We hear that some among you are

idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. **12** Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

**1 Timothy 5:8**, Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.