



Respectable

4 essentials are necessary to gain the attention of non-Christians as you explain the gospel:

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I. Live Well *Deliberately*.

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1 Peter 2:1 3, 11 12

So **put away** all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. **Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk**, that by it you may grow up into salvation--if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good...

1 Peter 2:13, 11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to **abstain from the passions of the flesh**, which wage war against your soul. **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

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I. Live Well **Deliberately**.

1 Peter 1:17

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, **conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,**

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I. Live Well **Deliberately.**

Ephesians 5:15 15

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is.**

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I. Live Well **Deliberately.**

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II. Respect Authority Consistently.

1 Peter 2:13 15

Be subject for the Lord's sake to **every human institution**, whether it be **to the emperor as supreme**, or to **governors** as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For **this is the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Romans 13:1-5

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Romans 13:1-5

Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good.

Romans 13:1-5

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For **he is the servant of God**, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore, **one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.**

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II. Respect **Authority** Consistently.

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III. **Engage** the Culture Positively. .

1 Peter 2:16 20

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **Honor everyone**. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God. Honor the emperor.**

1 Peter 2:16 20

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, **not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.** For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

1 Peter 2:16 20

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But **if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.**

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III. Engage the Culture Positively.

Romans 12:16-18

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.** If possible, so far as it depends on you, **live peaceably with all.**

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III. Engage the Culture Positively.

1 Timothy 6:1

Let all who are under a yoke as
bondservants regard their own masters as
worthy of all honor,
**so that the name of God and the teaching
may not be reviled.**

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III. Engage the Culture Positively.

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IV. Remember Jesus Daily.

1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

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IV. Remember Jesus Daily.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Hebrews 12:1-3

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

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Big Idea: To be respected (credible) you've got act respectable if you want the opportunity to explain to others the reason for the hope that lies within you with gentleness and respect.

Sermon Questions:

- Do I conduct myself in a way that strengthens my credibility with those who do not know Christ?
- Do I conduct myself in a way that weakens my credibility as I try to bear witness to Christ?
- Do I seek to treat all people the same: kindly and respectfully?
- Am I cynical and sarcastic? Negative?

Sermon Questions:

- Am I publicly and privately unkind to Christians with whom I disagree?
- Do I live with integrity or do I take the occasional moral shortcut?
- Do I pay taxes, exceed speed limits, and generally live a life that pretty much resembles everyone else, or do am I careful to cultivate a lifestyle that stands out for Christ, rather than blends in?
- Do I ever suffer undeserved hardship for my faith? Do I never suffer undeserved hardship for my faith?

