

“Well Thought of by Outsiders”, 1 Timothy 3:1–7
Pastor Shawn Newberry, March 22, 2026

The Big Idea

A godly life produces a credible **public testimony** among unbelievers.

How Christians Should Live Before Outsiders

1. **Mind Your Own Business** (*1 Thess. 4:11*)
Live quietly and humbly without meddling.
2. **Work Hard** (*1 Thess. 4:11–12*)
Be dependable and not a burden to others.
3. **No Grumbling** (*Phil. 2:14–15*)
Obey without a negative or complaining spirit.
4. **No Disputing** (*Phil. 2:14–15*)
Avoid arguing, pride, and resistance to authority.
5. **Be Consistent** (*1 Pet. 2:12*)
Live the same at church, home, and work—your life is your testimony.
6. **No Hypocrisy** (*Titus 2:7–8*)
Let your life match your message; speak truth with humility and integrity.
7. **Be Gracious and Wise** (*1 Pet. 3:15; Col. 4:5–6*)
Be kind, approachable, and ready to share your faith with gentleness.
8. **Be Unashamed** (*Matt. 5:14–16*)
Let your faith be visible—your life should shine for Christ.

A Warning (1 Tim. 3:7)

The enemy seeks to destroy your witness through hidden sin.
What is done in secret will impact your public testimony.

The Key

Walk in the Light (*1 John 1:7*)

Live with integrity, transparency, and consistency.

Summary

Elders should be chosen not only for their internal character but for a consistent, credible reputation among unbelievers. Scripture requires that their lives (at home, at work, and in public) reflect integrity, humility, and faithfulness so that their witness strengthens, rather than undermines, the gospel. Selecting leaders who are well thought of by outsiders protects the church’s credibility and guards against the snare of hidden sin that can damage both the leader and the body. These requirements are not just for leaders but are the standard for the average Christian life.

Discussion Questions

1. If the qualifications for elders reflect the kind of life God desires, how should these same standards shape the way you live daily?
2. Where do you see a gap between your private life and public witness, and what would it look like to live more consistently?
3. Which area (attitude, speech, work ethic, or relationships) most affects how others perceive your faith, and how can you grow in it?
4. How can you intentionally build relationships with non-Christians in a way that reflects both truth and grace?
5. What practical steps can you take this week to “walk in the light” and guard your life from anything that could damage your witness?