

Unbelieving Believers

(1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)

- Introduction:
1. We live in a mixed up world with plenty of what we call, “oxymorons.”
 2. An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear together.
 - a. Pretty ugly.
 - b. Growing smaller.
 - c. Random order.
 - d. Only choice.
 3. Today I would like for us to consider another oxymoron, “unbelieving believers,” or “Christian Atheists.”
 4. How can a person be an unbelieving believer, or a Christian atheist? ... by believing God exists, but by living as though he doesn’t exist.
 5. Could that describe you?
 6. Let’s Consider (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).

I. Were the Thessalonians Unbelieving Believers?

- A. Do you respect your elders (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)?
- B. Are You at Peace (1 Thessalonians 5:13)?
- C. Do You Help the Weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14)?
- D. Do You Render Evil for Evil (1 Thessalonians 5:15)?
- E. Do You Rejoice Always (1 Thessalonians 5:16)?
- F. Do You Pray Without Ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?
- G. Do You Give Thanks in Everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18)?
- H. Do You Quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19)?
- I. Do You Despise Prophecies (1 Thessalonians 5:20)?
- J. Do You Test All Things (1 Thessalonians 5:21)?
- K. Do You Abstain from Every Form of Evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22)?

II. Could We Be Unbelieving Believers?

- A. How do we receive those same instructions today?
- B. Do you think that we will get “credit” before believing in God’s existence if we don’t do what he says?

- Conclusion:
1. Be careful that you aren’t deceiving yourself.
 2. Believing in God is not the same as believing God.