

# Effectively Representing the Gospel

1 Thess. 2:1-12

## Introduction:

- A. Paul reviews his conduct and influence among the Thessalonians.
  - 1. He had been there as a representative of the “gospel of God” (vv. 2, 8, 9)
  - 2. He understood the role his conduct and demeanor had on his effectiveness.
  - 3. He concludes that he had been effective – “it was not in vain.”
- B. Paul’s review of his conduct and influences should serve as example for all Christians.
  - 1. Each Christians goes about daily as representative of the gospel.
  - 2. Each Christian is either effective or ineffective in his/her representation.
  - 3. To be effective, each Christians should embrace three traits of Paul’s demeanor at Thessalonica.

## Discussion:

### I. Confidence (“bold in our God” - v. 2)

- A. Caused him to speak “in much conflict” (v. 2).
  - 1. In spite of past treatment at Philippi (cf. Acts 16)
  - 2. In spite of present treatment at Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-11)
- B. Caused him to speak without “deceit or guile” (v. 3)
  - 1. False religion has to resort to such to cover its real ugly nature (cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-19)
  - 2. Christians have enough confidence tell all – pleasant or unpleasant (Acts 20:20, 25; Lk 9:57)
- C. Caused him to look to God for approval, not man (v. 4,5)
  - 1. Christians have no need of flattery to court man’s approval (v. 5; cf. Gal. 4:17-18)
  - 2. Christians have no need for flattery as a cloak of covetousness (cf. Mt. 6:33)

### II. Compassion (“gentle among you”- v. 7)

- A. Gentle as a mother nursing her children (v. 7 nkj)
  - 1. Willing to die for their good (v. 8)
  - 2. Willing to labor night and day to spare them (v. 9)
  - 3. Willing to patiently teach them (cf. Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24-28)
- B. Gentle as a good father to his own children (v. 11, cf. Eph. 6:4)
  - 1. Willing to exhort when needed.
  - 2. Willing to comfort when needed.
  - 3. Willing to charge when needed (cf 1 Thess. 5:14)

### III. Cleanliness (vv. 3, 10)

- A. Clean in every respect: Morality, motivation and manners.
- B. Paul’s clean living was an open book before them – they were witnesses of it.
  - 1. His holiness or devoutness – His treatment of God,
  - 2. His just behavior – His treatment of others.
  - 3. His unblameable character – not “unblamed”, but “unblameable.” – not rightly blamed.

## Conclusion

- A. If we so represent the gospel among our friends and neighbors – our going to them will not be vain.
  - 1. We can afford to be both bold and gentle at the same time.
  - 2. We will persuade some to “walk worthy of God” (v. 12) - but not all (Acts 17:4-5, 11)
- B. We can be good representatives of the gospel only after we have obeyed it and begin to live it.