

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Reputation

"Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked, and never well mended." – Anonymous

"The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour." – Japanese Proverb

"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it." – Benjamin Franklin

"It is generally much more shameful to lose a good reputation than never to have acquired it." – Pliny the Elder

How is your reputation? The dictionary defines it, "The estimation in which a person or thing is held, especially by the community or the public generally." The interesting thing about this is that everyone has a reputation even though they may not realize it.

You can try to hide from people and you will have a reputation for it. You can try to say almost nothing and you will have a reputation for it. You can even try to please everyone and you will have a reputation for it. There is no way to avoid it. Even in death your reputation lives on. "By faith offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks" (Heb. 11:4).

In your daily living you interact with a lot of folks; just as Paul said, "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself" (Rom. 14:7). So what kind of perception is held concerning you? Scripture indicates that it is important that you have a good reputation. "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold" (Prov. 22:1).

It is too bad that some people don't see the importance of a good reputation. The Bible warns that your reputation can be ruined (Prov. 25:10). Even though you may tell the truth in sincerity, if your reputation is marred, people will not listen. It is obviously detrimental in the spread of the Gospel message.

In the early church it is interesting to learn of an occasion where the Hellenist Jewish women were being neglected in the daily ministrations or care of the church. The apostles gave the instruction to choose seven men of good reputation, who were full of the Holy Spirit to handle the matter (Acts 6:3). Do you see the importance here of seven men of "good reputation?"

Were you aware that Cornelius was said to be a man of good reputation (Acts 10:22)? It is amazing how we don't pick up on these little things that are of great importance.