

Character And Reputation

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Gal. 2:2, 6

Gal. 2:2, *“And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.”*

Gal. 2:6, *“But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:”*

Character qualities of a person (moral)

Reputation the estimation in which a person is held.

What makes a reputation?

What is said. It is based upon other people’s impressions.

- 1 Sam. 18:30, *“Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.”*
- Acts 10:22, *“And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, ...”*
- 3 John 1:12, *“Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.”*

Reputations are not always of a good report.

When I was a child, the next door neighbor was known throughout the valley as a drunkard.

A kid up the street when I was in school was known as a thief and a robber.

A woman at work was known as a “loose” woman.

Without good character our reputation is condemned.

Scribes. Luke 20:46-47, *“Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; Which devour widows’ houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.”*

Ananias. Acts 5:1-6, *“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.”*

We need a good moral character to form our reputation.

Upon what does character depend?

Not inheritance. Ezek. 18:20, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”*

Not what we have. Luke 12:15, *“... Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”*

Not what we claim. Matt. 7:21-23, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

What we know. John 8:31-32, *“... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

What we say. Matt. 12:34-37, *“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the*

heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

What we do. 2 Cor. 5:10, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”*

Honesty. Luke 8:15, *“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”*

Willingly. Philemon 1:14, *“But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.”*

What aids in building character?

Confidence. 2 Cor. 8:22, *“And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.”*

Being peculiar and zealous. Titus 2:13-14, *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

Environment. 1 Cor. 15:33, *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

Conclusion

If we concentrate on doing the Lord’s will and forming our character after His, a good reputation of us will follow.

If we try to form a reputation to impress those about us, God (who can see through it) will not be impressed.

