

What Is Your Kingdom Reputation?

Reputations Are Important and Desired

- A. A good reputation and loving esteem by others are a *choice* and *priority* (Pr 22:1; Eccl 7:1).
- B. Men with superior conduct are to be *acknowledged* (Rom 16:7; I Cor 16:18; Phil 2:29; 3:17).
- C. The just shall live by faith, but great men live by great faith and get a *good report* (He 11:2).
- D. Without a good reputation, you live a *meaningless life*, and you die a meaningless death.

Reputations Are Based on God and Others

- A. It is a *lame excuse and lie* to think you have a good report with God, while offending men.
- B. Most men consider themselves great and will say so, but *great men are very rare* (Prov 20:6).
- C. Samuel and Jesus are clearly identified as growing in favor *with men* (I Sam 2:26; Luk 2:52).
- D. Keeping mercy and truth obtain *favor and good understanding with God and men* (Pr 3:3-4).
- E. The conduct of the righteous causes their stock to *rise rapidly* (Gen 39:1-6; I Sam 18:1,5-8,14-16,30; Prov 9:8; 11:27; 14:35; 16:13; 22:11; 24:26; 28:23; Dan 6:1-5; Rom 16:4,7; etc.).
- F. Zealous saints *can be known far and wide* for faith and fruit (Rom 1:8; 16:19; I Thes 1:6-10).
- G. Saints and ministers are to have a *good reputation before outsiders* (I Thess 4:12; I Tim 3:7).
- H. Going further needs a broader study: <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/pdf/things-becoming-sound-doctrine.pdf>.

Examples of N.T. Reputations

- A. In each of these great examples, read every word of the Holy Ghost to glean all that is there.
- B. *Cornelius* led his house to fear God and was godly with God and men (Ac 10:1-2,22,34-35).
- C. *Ananias* had a good reputation with all the Jews in the capital city of Syria (Acts 22:12).
- D. *Phebe* was a succourer, or helper, of the apostle Paul and of many saints (Romans 16:1-2).
- E. *Gaius* was so given to hospitality that Paul said he was host of the whole church (Ro 16:23).
- F. *Stephanas* and family were addicted to service and worth acknowledgment (I Cor 16:15-18).
- G. *Timothy* was an exceptional minister with his priorities superior to all others (Phil 2:19-22).
- H. *Epaphroditus* was another minister that Paul commended highly for devotion (Phil 2:25-30).
- I. *Philemon* was a worker with Paul known by saints for love, faith, and works (Phile 1:1-7).
- J. *Gaius* had a lifestyle in the truth, in faithful service, and a witness of charity (III John 1:3-6).
- K. *Demetrius* had a good report of all men, as measured by truth, and the apostles (III Jn 1:12).

How Can I Improve My Reputation?

- A. *Serving as a servant* builds the greatest reputation in the kingdom of heaven (Matt 20:25-28).
- B. *Work is service* wherever you can be used to benefit one or more (Rom 16:6,9,12; Heb 6:10).
- C. *Charity, or love of others*, is more excellent service than an apostleship (I Cor 12:31; 13:13).
- D. *Scriptural and spiritual conversation* from knowledge is wonderful (Pr 22:17-21; Ro 15:14).
- E. *Zeal in good things over time* marks exceptional men (II Kings 10:16; Gal 4:18; II Cor 9:2).
- F. *Fruitfulness* in helping, lifting, teaching, and warning others is special (Prov 11:30; 10:21).
- G. *Prayer* is labor and wrestling with God for blessings (Luke 2:36-37; Col 4:12-13; Eph 6:18).
- H. *Seeking first God's kingdom* separates the spiritual from the carnal (Matt 6:33; Phil 3:18-19).
- I. *Faithfulness* is constancy and continuing in the things marked out by scripture (Prov 20:6).
- J. *Participation* needs eagerness, volunteering, asking for assignments, creativity, initiative, etc.

Churches have a core of zealots, a shell of faithless and fruitless, and a body of the average.