

PROVERBS

The Way of Wisdom

A Good Name



Character and Reputation

Socrates Quote



“An unexamined life is not worth living.”

Galatians 6:3-4 (AMP)



“For if anyone thinks he is something [special] when [in fact] he is nothing [special except in his own eyes], he deceives himself. But each one must carefully scrutinize his own work [examining his actions, attitudes, and behavior], and then he can have the personal satisfaction and inner joy of doing something commendable without comparing himself to another.”

Revelation 3:1-3



“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.”

Philippians 1:27



The true test of our character is
what we do when no one is
watching.

Reputation and Character



☞ Proverbs 3:3-4

☞ *"If I take care of my character my reputation will take care of itself."* –D.L. Moody

Comparing



- Our Reputation is the shadow of our character.
- Reputation is what you have when you come into a new community; character is what you have when you go away.



- Reputation is what you are supposed to be, character is what you are.
- Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone, character is what the angels say about you before the throne of God.

A couple thoughts



☞ A good reputation exists because it is a reflection of a person's character. (Proverbs 22:1) A good name originates from others not you (27:2, 21). Man's reputation comes from others recognizing his integrity, not from him announcing it.

Biblical Examples



☞ Positive Examples: Gen. 12:18-20; 18:19; 31:39; Deut. 18:19; **1 Sam. 12:1-5**; 2 Kings 12:15; 22:4-7; Job. 1:8; Dan. 3:16-28; 6:4; Mal. 2:6; Acts 23:1-3; Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 4:2; 1 Thess. 2:3-12.



☞ Negative Examples: Joshua 7:11-26; 1 Kings 21:2-16; 2 Kings 5:19-27; Matt. 23:1-39; Acts 8:18-23; 23:12-15; 1 Tim. 1:18-20.

Character the foundation to life

☞ Proverbs 10:9, 11:3

☞ *There is no such thing as a minor lapse of integrity*—Tom Peters

☞ Matthew 12:33-35



Many succeed *momentarily* by what
they know

Some succeed *temporarily* by what
they do

Few succeed *permanently* by what
they are.

Character and Credentials



- ❧ An artisans “Character”
- ❧ The quality of the person and his work gave value to his credentials.



When we try to influence others by the weight of our credentials rather than the strength of our character we will never accomplish adding value to people, generating respect and authority, or building a lasting legacy for the future.

Final Thoughts



- ❧ Characterize people by their actions and you will never be fooled by their words.
- ❧ What is the final goal of a life of integrity? Let's read Proverbs 4:18

Application



Disciplined people can do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason.

(Hebrews 12:11)