

“Do I Have a Good Reputation with the Community?”  
(Part 10 – 10 Part Series – “What is a Mature Disciple?”)  
July 3, 2011

**Scripture Reading** – Daniel 6:1-5; I Tim. 3:7

*What does it look like to have a good reputation?*

*“A good name is to be more desired than great wealth. Favor is better than silver and gold.”  
(Prov. 22:1) (Also Eccl. 7:1)*

1. The Lord is with us in the world to make a difference.
  - Joseph – Gen. 39:3
  - Nehemiah – Neh. 2:8
  - Esther – Esther 2:9,15
  - Daniel – Dan. 1:9; 6:5
  
2. We have love for one another and unity with one another.
  - Love – John 13:35
  - Unity – John 17:23
  
3. The light of the Lord is shining through us.
  - Good deeds – Matt. 15:16
  - Wisdom – I Kings 4:29, 34; Dan. 1:20
  - No grounds of accusation. – Dan. 6:4

**Application:**

1. Which of the Old Testament characters impressed you the most in the area of their integrity? Why?
2. What area do you need to work on the most? What would the community say about you? What would you like them to say?

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
"Do I Have a Good Reputation with the Community?"  
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1. Has it been your experience that churches have a good reputation or a bad reputation in the communities in which you have lived? Why? What kinds of things make a difference in a community? What do they tend to notice?
2. Read Prov. 22:1 and Eccl. 7:1 and discuss the ingredients of a "good name." Why is this better than having money?
3. Review the four examples of "a good name" found in the Old Testament. What is the common thread? What did people notice? What were some of their challenges? What promise is given in Prov. 16:7 that each of them experienced?
  - Joseph –(Gen. 39:3)
  - Nehemiah – (Neh. 2:8)
  - Esther –(Esther 2:9, 15)
  - Daniel – (Dan. 1:9; 6:5)
4. Jesus said to His disciples that the world will notice what two things among Christians that will make a difference? (John 13:35) How important is to the Lord to love one another, according to I John 4:20? What should be our first priority? (Col. 3:14) Discuss the impact on non-Christians when churches are fighting.
5. The second quality that makes a difference is "unity." (John 17:23) What does unity say about our God? (John 17:21) Our true spiritual maturity is revealed with our diligence toward unity. (Eph. 4:3) What does this hard work to preserve unity look like?
6. Jesus calls us to be a light in the world. (Matt. 5:14, 16) If we are truly shining the way we should, what will be the outcome? Give some recent examples of "good deeds." (John 15:8) The wisdom of God will also be evident to the community in the lives of Christians. (James 1:5) Discuss the life of Solomon and his impact on the world. (I Kings 4:29, 34)
7. The life of Daniel is one of the best examples of a man who had a good reputation in a community. (Dan. 6:4) Could this be said about you? Pray to be a light to those with whom you have contact.