



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ APRIL 2015 ❖

Reputation and Character

Reputation can be sullied or destroyed by innuendoes, half-truths or lies. Character, however, cannot. What others think of you has no bearing on your character. Reputation is the general estimation in which a person is held by the public. Character is the combination of qualities or features you possess.

CHARACTER

Character is important: it is what you are inside—the real you—that which God sees. What we think about ourselves may be accurate, or it may not. It's easy to overlook one's faults and shortcomings. There is one who knows the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.* Hebrews 4:12-13

REPUTATION

Some in Corinth sullied Paul's reputation: *For they say, "His [Paul] letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."* 2 Corinthians 10:10

The Apostle Paul wrote: *"But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself. For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord. Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."* 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

PROVEN CHARACTER IS WHAT MATTERS

We need to do our best to develop "proven character" as we face the trials and difficulties encountered in life. *And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* Romans 5:3-5

Remember: We will be judged by our character, not our reputation. And not by what we think of ourselves.

'Based On'

Often we hear about a movie that is based on the Bible. But when viewing it, it seems only vaguely familiar. Names of the characters and some events can be recognized. But that's about it. Parts are changed, added or deleted.

We need to realize that movies are made to appeal to the viewers. Drama, sex, and other items are injected to "enhance" the storyline. The same can be said about books "based on" the Bible.

Today some religious groups, fellowships, and churches claim to be followers of Christ. They say their teachings, programs, and activities are "based on" the Bible. But when comparing them to the church that Jesus built they are only vaguely familiar. Things are added, deleted, and changed while "marketing" the church. "Give the people what they want and they will come." And they do. They may join the group, but have they been joined to Christ? Jesus Christ saves. Churches don't.

BASED ON THE BIBLE ONLY

We can't rely on movies, books, or church teachings to know Jesus, His teachings, and His saving power. Saving faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Unadulterated and unchanged.

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

WARNING

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-10

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*There is **one body** and **one Spirit**, just as also you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God** and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4:4-6

*"I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ."*



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

## ABBA

*And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."*

Mark 14:36

In the Gemara (a Rabbinical commentary on the Mishna, the traditional teaching of the Jews) it is stated that slaves were forbidden to address the head of the family by this title. It approximates to a personal name, in contrast to "Father," with which it is always joined in the NT. This is probably due to the fact that, *abba* having practically become a proper name, Greek-speaking Jews added the Greek word *pater*, "father," from the language they used. *Abba* is the word framed by the lips of infants, and betokens unreasoning trust; "*father*" expresses an intelligent apprehension of the relationship. The two together express the love and intelligent confidence of the child.

– Vines Expository Dictionary

### 'ABBA, FATHER' IN PAUL'S EPISTLES

Paul used *Abba* to describe God's adoption of believers as His children (*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"* Romans 8:15 – and the change in the believer's status with God (*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.* Galatians 4:6-7).

**Succinctly  
Put**

Do the **RIGHT THING** (as commanded) in the **RIGHT WAY** (as directed) for the **RIGHT REASON** (proper motivation) with the **RIGHT ATTITUDE** (from the heart).



## Musings of a Preacher

### Feelings

His name was Frank. He was what one would call "weird." He was so weird that he believed aliens from other planets lived in the canyon near his home. And it didn't help that his physical appearance was, to be kind, not very attractive.

He had a menial labor-intensive job at the place where I worked. He did his job very well. And he kept to himself most of the time, but he would talk to you if you initiated a conversation.

Because of his demeanor and appearance, he became the victim of many pranks. Most of the time he took it in stride, but one day after enduring a number of humiliating antics, he confided in me, "I wish they wouldn't do such things. You know, I have feelings, too."

### Motto:

**Be thoughtful and kind.**

*Treat others the same way you want them  
to treat you.*

Luke 6:31

*What is desirable in a man is his kindness ....*

Proverbs 19:22a



## Ponder This

## Deteriorate

To diminish or impair in quality, character, or value.

### GROOVE NOT RUT

A groove (to be in a settled routine enables one to enjoy an activity that one is especially well suited) must not deteriorate into a rut (a habitual, often tiresome routine or course of action). Religious services that continue week after week, month after month, and year after year, must not become a tiresome routine.

In the days of the prophet Malachi, serving God had become tiresome. God said: *“You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’ And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the Lord.* Malachi 1:13

### COMFORTABLE NOT LACKADAISICAL

Comfortable (a condition or feeling of pleasurable ease and well-being) must not deteriorate into being lackadaisical (lacking spirit, liveliness, or interest; being disinclined toward any effort). The sense of well-being afforded to those who are in Christ Jesus needs to be reinvigorated daily to keep it alive and active.

The church at Sardis had deteriorated: *“I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.”* Revelation 3:1-2

### CONTENT NOT COMPLACENT

Content (desiring no more than what one has; satisfied) must not deteriorate into being complacent (contented to a fault; self-satisfied and unconcerned; yielding readily to external pressure). Contentment found in Christ Jesus is truly a blessing, but it must not hinder one from “pressing on to what lies ahead.”

Paul the Apostle, who had learned contentment, said: *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.* Philippians 3:12



## Nothing New Under the Sun

HISTORY KEEPS REPEATING ITSELF

A.D. 33 - 2015

*And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.”*

Luke 16:15

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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