

# What's Your Reputation?

## **Scripture**

“Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother” (Philemon 1:5-7 AV).

## **Devotion**

Philemon had a good reputation; he demonstrated his faith and love for Jesus and others in such a way that church was encouraged. How wonderful it is to see a brother or sister living for God! Do you desire to have such a reputation; not to be a braggart or to inflate your own ego, but to honor God and be pleasing in His sight? Oh how I wish all of God's children would live with such a testimony. If we did, the world would have to take notice; and there would be no difficulty discerning the true and undefiled religion from the counterfeits of the day.

Thankfully it doesn't take a very smart person to figure out the secrets to building a good reputation. In fact, we can't even really call them secrets as they are obvious to any born-again believer. Love God and love others and you will have a good reputation.

Is that too simple? Well we tend to make things that we don't want to do complicate so as to have an excuse. My son, when he doesn't want to do a chore I have assigned him, will always start questioning the obvious. It is his way of frustrating me hoping that I will just do it for him. The other thing he does, after minimal effort, is say it's too hard. Again, he is hoping that I will just do it myself. Sometimes I falter and let him off the hook when I shouldn't.

Thankfully, our heavenly father is perfect in His parenting skills. He is longsuffering, but He always brings us back to the same lessons until we get it right. He will not forsake us to our sinful passions. Act stubbornly and you can expect to be disciplined.

You see the problem is not that we don't understand what to do. We just don't want to do it. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41). Therefore, stop looking for excuses and start obeying what you know to do. Mortify your flesh and start living by faith. Then you will gain the reputation that Philemon had as one who refreshes the saints.