

Ecclesiastes 7:1 “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.”

A common phrase people use in the trades is this: “Reputation is everything in this business.” I agree fully with this statement. Working in construction the best form of advertisement is word of mouth. This means that all the billboards, all the newspaper ads, all the social media posts, none of that can compare to the advertising your reputation will provide. If people trust you before they meet you, you are more likely to win that job.

It’s also the same on the flip side of that coin. If you have a reputation for being late, being unorganized, poor communication and the like, that reputation will also speak for you. People will then have mistrust for you before they meet you. It will then be harder to win their trust and win that job.

Thinking about that in terms of the Kingdom of Heaven the same rules apply. Let’s think about that in terms of the Kingdom of Heaven. As God’s People we create His reputation on his behalf here on earth. And since the fall of man, Satan has worked to pervert both the image of God and the reputation of God throughout every corner of the earth. Many times he uses the simple mistakes we make to tarnish the way people perceive our God. This can be an overwhelming responsibility if we attempt to do it in our own strength.

Now, don’t get me wrong, there will always be people who look to twist the truth of God and create excuses as to why they don’t want to obey God and why others shouldn’t either. We see this in every corner of culture. But beyond that, we have been spiritually tasked to reflect our God. We can accomplish this through the inner working of the Holy Spirit. We know the Holy Spirit is active in our lives because we will see the fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness and Self-Control) active in our daily lives, especially in trying situations.

The real challenge I want us to consider today is simple: Am I being a good example for Jesus? Not only that, but what does a good example for Jesus mean? We must live and breathe and move through society and engage with people of all types of backgrounds and beliefs. Representing Jesus does not mean being accepted or popular, Jesus never was. It means displaying the absolute truth in the love of God.

Let’s consider this thought during this week and how it relates to us in our context and life. Its our job to create a good reputation for our God, it’s the Holy Spirit’s mission to reveal Jesus through our lives to the world around us.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg