



1 Timothy 3:7 "Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil."

I. The Standard: A Leader's Public Credibility

A. The _____ Requirement – A Respected Reputation

1 Timothy 3:7a "Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders"

B. The Serious _____ – The Danger of Disgrace

1 Timothy 3:7b "so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil."

II. The Principle: A Watching World and a Visible Faith

A. _____ Speech That Opens Doors
(Colossians 4:5-6)

B. Conduct That _____ to God
(1 Peter 2:12)

C. Gentle _____ That Silences Accusation
(1 Peter 3:15-16)

D. A _____ That Cannot Be Hidden
(Matthew 5:14-16)

III. The Pattern: Credibility in Hostile Cultures

A. _____ – Trusted in Egypt
(Genesis 41:38-39)

Genesis 39:4 "So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had."

B. _____ – Distinguished in Babylon
(Daniel 6:3-5)

C. Boaz and Ruth – Honorable in Bethlehem
(Ruth 2:11; 3:11)

Ruth 2:1 "Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz."

D. Jesus – Declared Innocent by Pagan Rulers
(Luke 23:4, 15)

Matthew 27:19 "Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.'"

E. _____ – Respected Even by His Accusers
(Acts 24:25)

Acts 26:28 "And Agrippa said to Paul, 'In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?'"

IV. The Tension: In the World, Not of the World

A. Credibility Without _____

1 Timothy 3:7a "Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders"

B. Distinctiveness Without _____
(John 17:14-16)

C. Grace That _____ Visible Godliness

Titus 2:11-12 "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age"

D. A Good _____ Above Great Gain

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

- 1. Logos (logic)
- 2. Pathos (passion)
- 3. Ethos (credibility)

V. The _____ : Building a Gospel-Shaped Reputation

A. _____ With Excellence

B. Practice Radical _____

C. Show Uncommon _____

D. Speak With _____ Strength

E. Display Dignity Even in _____



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BACKGROUND:

Colossians 3:9-10 reminds us that we have put off the old self and its behaviors and have put on the new self after the image of our creator. Our new life in Christ should reflect His heart, mind, attitude, and actions. These are the qualities Paul instructs us to look for in an overseer or a deacon (*1 Timothy 3:1-11*). A person's trustworthiness can be measured by fruit of their behavior. A product of their public witness. As Jesus said, "So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit" (*Matthew 7:17*). God desires spiritually healthy mature individuals to steward His gospel of hope.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Paul encountered Timothy at Lystra where "He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium" (Acts 16:2). In other words, Timothy had a good reputation. A good reputation is of great importance (Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1) and as we imitate Christ, we should be well thought of by others. After all, we are Jesus' ambassadors reflecting His light in a dark corrupt world. Our reputation reflects on His reputation. If people can't trust us, how can we expect them to place their trust in Christ?

1. How do you define a good reputation?
2. How is a reputation maintained?
3. How is our godly behavior in the flesh an act of worship in spirit?

A person who is double-tongued is not trustworthy. It is a sign that someone lacks integrity. To be double-tongued is to be hypocritical, insincere. It means to say one thing to one person and something different to someone else. God's children are to speak truth with grace.

4. How is gossip a form of being double-tongued?
5. How was Judas Iscariot double-tongued?
6. What is the value of letting your "yes" mean yes, and your "no" mean no? (*Matthew 5:37*)

When a person lives with integrity their outward behavior matches their inner self. Their dignity is centered on living honest, authentic lives with relationships that are genuine and loving. They are faithful, available, trustworthy, reliable, and treat others the way they'd like to be treated, speaking truth with gentleness and respect.

7. What does it mean to be dignified?
8. Who is a person you can point to that was/is an example of living a dignified life?
9. How might the fact that God created us in His image (*Genesis 1:27*) and he formed our inward parts (*Psalms 139:13*) encourage us to seek our dignity through Him?

TAKING IT HOME:

As we grow in our faith we should also grow in our public witness. We should maintain a godly reputation, be trustworthy, and faithful. We should live peaceably with everyone and continue to do good. As Peter said, "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people" (1 Peter 2:15).

10. Can your reputation stand against the gossip, slander or lies of others?
11. How has your public witness grown as you matured spiritually?
12. Is there an area of your speech or conduct that needs to be improved? If so, what would that be?