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Sunday, September 22, 2019

Together We Can: Build a Reputation Walking with God

**TEXT:** Hebrews 11:5; Genesis 5:18-24; Matthew 5:13 *"Let me tell   
you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning   
that brings out the God-flavors of this earth.”*

Last week, we were encouraged to think about how we are impacting others with the Gospel of Christ. We began asking about our personal reputations. Reputation - the beliefs or opinions that are generally   
held about someone or something. *A reputation is one form of currency that never fluctuates with the marked. A good reputation gains credit   
and trust. Not just financially but relationally as well.*

Ecclesiastes 7:1 *“A good name is better than a costly perfume.”*What kind of reputation do you have? If someone was asked to write   
an Amazon/Angie’s List review on you…“What would it say?”

Enoch had a reputation

* Here is what we know of Enoch: He was born. He lived.   
  He had a son. He walked with God. He pleased God. He was not.
* In the very little mentioned about him, is an amazing testimony   
  that has made him a Hero of Faith.
  + Enoch walked with God. Enoch pleased God.

Walking with God

* The bible talks a lot about how we should walk.
  + Walk uprightly Mic. 6:7; humbly Mic. 6:8; with integrity Pro. 10:9; with wise people Pro.13:20; in the light John 11:9-10; new life Rom. 6:4; in the Spirit Rom. 8:1,4; properly Rom. 13:13; by faith 2 Cor. 5:7; in good works he prepared Eph. 2:10; worthy of calling Eph. 4:1; in love Eph. 5:2; carefully Eph. 5:15; in example of others Phil. 3:17; in Him Col. 2:6; in wisdom Col. 4:5;   
    properly toward unbelievers 1 Thess. 4:12; in truth 3 John 4.
  + Walk as He walked - 1 John 2:16.
    - *“The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor   
      to be what you desire to appear.”* – Socrates.
    - Your reputation as a Christian is based on how you endeavor to walk like Christ.
* The Bible also gives advice on how not to walk.
  + Don’t walk in own ways. Acts 14:16
  + Not as regular people, in futility of the mind. Eph. 4:17
  + Enoch’s Walk with God earned him a reputation. Heb. 11:5
* Reputation matters. How people see you matters.
  + Jesus cares what people think about Him.
    - Mark 8:27 - “Who do people say that I am?”
    - Mark 8:29 - to his disciples “Who do you say that I am?”
      * It mattered to Jesus, how people saw Him.
* A Walk with God should be Public, not just private.
  + Enoch’s life & walk set him apart from others.   
    People recognized him as one who walked with God.
    - Be known - Enoch didn’t hide in his house or online…  
      He lived His relationship with God openly & people noticed!
    - If nobody notices anything different about you   
      and how you live, speak, act, work, love, respond…   
      You’re not going to have people say you walked with God.
* Don’t just preach the Word. Live it! Romans 2:23-24 NLT
  + Consistency Matters – Walking with God is a way of life.
    - Whatever Enoch’s walk looked like, he did it for 300 years.
    - It was a daily adventure. NOT a MOMENTARY action.
* A lot of people lived…in his time on earth but Enoch was the only one in his time with the reputation of walking with God.
  + Enoch faithfully walked with and pleased God. He provided   
    an example and his life preached a message about God.
  + What about you?

What is something you can do?

* Coach kids sport, be the snack parent.
* Join the HOA, Parent-Teacher Organization, 4-H.
* Take a community class (crafts, painting, dog walking).
* Make a point to schedule yourself to be out in the neighborhood   
  set hours. Walk. Talk and take interest in others. Start building   
  a bridge.
  + Live God Large. Not obnoxiously, but openly and in a real way.

The review people left about Enoch was that he had a close relationship with God. What is the review people would leave about you?   
Does the world know you enough to even comment?

How are you building a reputation for Christ with others?   
Is your faith louder than you lips?

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