

**Next Steps:** When the Apostle Paul is helping Timothy choose the right leadership for the church in Ephesus, Paul gives these instructions for the overseers: **“They must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that they will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.” 1 Timothy 3:7**

Not everyone aspires to be a leader in the church, but every Christian should aspire to have a good reputation with people outside the church. Our reputations are largely based on what we say and what we do. A good reputation is developed through saying and doing good things. We have 100% control over what we say and what we do.

Based on the Scripture passages listed below, what are some characteristics of those who aspire to develop and sustain a good reputation?

Matthew 5:13-16

Romans 12:9-21

Romans 13:1-10

Ephesians 4:1-3

Ephesians 4:17-32

**Next Week:** Next Sunday we have the joy of celebrating the sacrament of Communion together. This privilege was shared by Jesus, commanding his followers to continue sharing the bread and the cup in remembrance of his sacrificial love for us. Our Bible text for the message will be from Matthew 23.