

**CLASS 11**

# Developing a Godly Example and Reputation

**CLASS OVERVIEW**

In this class we will review:

- How example and reputation affect our ability to lead and the congregation's ability to follow.
- How *family* example affects a leader's ability to lead.
- How to use example as a teaching tool or modeling technique.
- The importance of a godly example inside *and* outside the Church.

**Opening Group Questions:**

- Why is it so important for leaders to set a godly example and maintain a godly reputation?
- How will a leader's example help or harm a congregation?

**Reputation** is 1) estimation in which a person or thing is commonly held, whether favorable or not, character in the view of the public, 2) such estimation when favorable; good repute; good name, 3) general character of being.

Neufledt, V., Guralnik, D.B. (Eds.). (1994). *Webster's New World Dictionary* (Third College Edition). New York: Prentice Hall.

## I. God's Perspective on Example and Reputation

Prov 22:1—A good name is better than riches.

Ecc 10:1—Even *occasional* poor behavior can ruin a good reputation.

Prov 10:7—The name of the wicked will rot.

Prov 21:24—"Scoffer" is the name of a proud and haughty man.

Rom 12:17—Repay no evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men (*Living Bible*—"Never pay back evil for evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honest clear through").

Titus 1:10-16—The poor reputation of some believers preceded them.

1 Peter 3:1-2—Wives, are to set an example for unbelieving husbands so they might be won over by their chaste conduct (vv. 3-6—more of *wifely* example).

Titus 2:1-8—The appropriate Christian example of older and younger men and women.

"Your example speaks so loud that I can't hear what you are saying."

—Anonymous

"He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other."

—Francis Bacon Sr.