

IV. Conclusion

Godly leaders set excellent examples and have excellent reputations. Their godly reputations do truly precede them, making it easy for others to follow them. Godly leaders are humble servants, they are steadfast in the truth, their families as a whole set good (albeit not perfect) examples, they are full of faith, wisdom, and God's Holy Spirit, and they are blameless in the eyes of others. Godly leaders are aware of the power of example and reputation. They set an example that others will *want* to follow. Ultimately, reputation and example are essential to an effective, godly leader.

Note: When speaking, much care and consideration should be given prior to using "personal examples" as anecdotes. Personal examples can be very powerful and memorable teaching tools that can help the topic "come alive." Personal examples can also potentially imply self-promotion or a negative example can erode the trust and respect of the brethren. Be cautious when using personal examples when speaking. Remember the principle: "If in doubt, it is probably better not to use it."

Optional Homework for Next Class: (choose one assignment to complete)

- With your spouse and/or other Church members, discuss the importance of marriage and family to leaders.
- Are there any points that leaders need to keep in mind regarding marriage and family relationships?
- Do a brief Bible study, focusing on roles or responsibilities of husband, wives and parents.

Quotes About Reputation and Example

Reputation is only a candle, of wavering and uncertain flame, and easily blown out, but it is the light by which the world looks for and finds merit.

—James Russell Lowell

A good name is better than precious ointment...

—King Solomon (Ecc 7:1)

A lost good name is ne'er retriev'd.

—John Gay

A good example is the best sermon.

—Benjamin Franklin

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

—Benjamin Disraeli