

HOW TO HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION
I PETER 2:11-12

Introduction:

- A. Everyone has a reputation.
 - 1. Good one or a bad one.
 - 2. Reputations are generally earned.
 - 3. Some are bestowed.
 - 4. Some are inherited. (Cretians, Titus 1:12).

- B. Our reputations (a particular characteristic in popular estimation) are important.
 - 1. Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches."
 - 2. Christians must have good reputations.
 - 3. I Tim. 3:7.

- C. How can we have good reputations?

I. "ABSTAIN FROM FLESHLY LUSTS" V11

- A. These are saved people!
 - 1. Born again, v1:3-5 ; v2:9-10.
 - 2. The recipients of this letter never change from saved to lost!

- B. Peter addresses them in fondness.
 - 1. "dearly beloved."
 - 2. "strangers and pilgrims."
 - 3. strangers = without rights of citizenship.
 - 4. Pilgrims = away from one's own people.

- C. What are fleshly lusts?
 - 1. I John 2:15-17.
 - 2. Gal. 5:19.
 - 3. Letting the flesh dictate, self-indulgence.

- D. Why should we abstain?

1. War against the soul. v11
2. war = to wage war.
3. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.
4. Heart become a constant battle ground.
 - a. How much good can be done in time of war?

II. "HAVE YOUR CONVERSATION HONEST AMONG THE GENTILES."

- A. "bear yourselves uprightly among heathen."
 1. We live and work in a hostile world.
 2. This is the way it should be.

- B. "Wherein they speak against you as evildoers."
 1. If you live according to the Bible, you will have such.
 2. "beware when all men speak good of you."
 3. Reputation of siding not with friend or foe, but the Bible.

- C. "They may, by your good works, which they shall behold"
 1. People will see the good you do.
 2. Don't be ashamed to do good.

- D. "glorify God."
 1. Does this mean, Praise God!
 2. No! To change opinion about God.
 3. This will come later.
 4. Many will not change in this life.

- E. "in the day of visitation."
 1. visitation = a looking upon, for help, relief, deliverance or punishment; hence, visitation.
 2. When the Lord comes, we will get what we deserve.
 3. "deliverance or punishment."