

# Reputation

Revelation 3:1-6

What is a reputation?

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Sardis had a good reputation in their community. Does FCC have a good reputation in Durango? What kind of reputation do we have?

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Let's take a look at God's reputation in Isaiah 40.

Jesus knew that the church of Sardis had a good reputation in their community, but He also knew their works and that is what He was addressing. He was challenging them to an increased commitment to Him.

What does your commitment look like? How do we increase our commitment to Him and how do we demonstrate it?

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Jesus says that He will come as a thief, and you shall not know the hour. When He removes His presence, He comes to them in judgment. It will prevent them from discerning and preparing for His judgment. It is a forfeiture of His grace and mercy. Yet, He provides comfort in the midst of their *complacency* (security, often unaware of some potential danger). He tells them to strengthen what little they have left. He is looking for those who have remained committed to Him.

How do we strengthen what remains?

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Though they had a good reputation in their city, Jesus pointed out that they were dead. They didn't have life. The Spirit of God was missing. Their church, like many churches today, had good programs, great music and preaching, but Jesus knew their works and saw that there was no true spiritual life there. They were playing church. We must remember what we have received and heard, applying it to our lives...authenticity.

Let's take a look at 2 Timothy 3:5-7  
What does it mean to have a "form of godliness"?

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Many churches today are trying to accommodate the world and culture, rather than leading the world and culture. They are lacking substance beneath the appearance of godliness.  
How can we do better, especially now that we are facing greater persecution than ever before?

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Those in white garments had a special invite, like being invited to a wedding or special occasion. A banquet with God for those who conquer. Not everyone's "yes" means the same thing. We do not lose our place in heaven, but there are those who move beyond the bleachers, beyond the bench, and give it their all on the field. They take beating after beating, yard after yard, always working towards the goal. They are committed, and loyal.

Who are the 3 most influential people in your life? How have they impacted your life?

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*If you allow Him, God is the keeper of your reputation. Keep living for Him, no matter the cost to you.*