

Philippians 2.7 “Step 1: No Reputation”

Philippians 2:5-8 – 7 steps down

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God,

did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of

(1) no reputation,

(2) taking the form of a bondservant, and

(3) coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being

(4) found in appearance as a man,

(5) He humbled Himself and became

(6) obedient to the point of death,

(7) even the death of the cross.

- **Amplified:** But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. .
- **Wuest:** But emptied Himself, having taken the outward expression of a bondservant, which expression came from and was truly representative of His nature, entering into a new state of existence, that of mankind.
- **Lightfoot:** but divested himself of the glories of heaven, and took upon him the nature of a servant, assuming the likeness of men.
- **KJV Commentary:** He stripped Himself of His expression of deity, but not His possession of deity. He restricted the outward manifestation of His deity. In His incarnation, He clothed Himself with humanity. He was like a king temporarily clothing himself in the garb of a peasant while still remaining king, even though it was not apparent. ¹

“He made Himself . . . ”

- **SPIROS ZODHIATES:** “**WE now come to consider one of the most sublime and wonderful mysteries in all Scripture: what has been called by theologians, “The Doctrine of the Kenosis.”**”
 - The title comes from the Greek expression, rendered in our Authorized Version, “made Himself of no reputation”—an expression which really means “emptied Himself,” or “divested Himself.” ²
2758. κενῶω kenóō; contracted *kenō*, fut. *kenósō*, from *kenós* (2756), empty, void. **To make empty, to empty,** falsify, be fallacious.
1) to empty, make empty

¹ Dobson, E G, Charles Feinberg, E Hindson, Woodrow Kroll, H L. Wilmington: KJV Bible Commentary: Nelson

² H. A. Ironside, *Notes on the Epistle to the Philippians*, 40-41 (Loizeaux Brothers: Neptune, NJ, 1922).

1a) of Christ, he laid aside equality with or the form of God
2) to make void

2a) deprive of force, render vain, useless, of no effect 3

- **Waterland:** **"we are not to suppose that he lost anything which he had before; or that he ceased to be in the form of God, by taking on him the form of man. No: he had the same essential glory, the same real dignity, which he ever had, but among men concealed it;** appeared not in majesty and glory like to God, but divested himself of every dazzling appearance, and every outward mark of majesty and greatness, condescending to appear, and act, and converse as a man, like unto us in all things, sin only excepted" (Works, vol. 2, pp. 111, 112). 4

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,** that you through His poverty might become rich.

EVERYTHING THE FATHER HAD – HE GAVE TO JESUS

Colossians 2:9-10. (LEB)

9 because in him (Jesus) **all the fullness of deity dwells** bodily,

10 **and you are filled in him,**

who is the head over every ruler and authority, 5

- **Everything Jesus had he gave to you!**

Ephesians 1:3 (LEB) Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,** 6

- **What are you going to do with that?**

THE SAME SPIRIT OF GOD THAT RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD – LIVES IN YOU!

Romans 8.11 **And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you,** the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also make alive your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you. 7

7 but made Himself of no reputation,

>JESUS Emptied Himself of ANY Reputation:

- **Wikipedia: Reputation of a social entity (a person, a social group, an organization) is an opinion about that entity, typically a result of social**

3 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

4 Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere-Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word*, 1393 (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992).

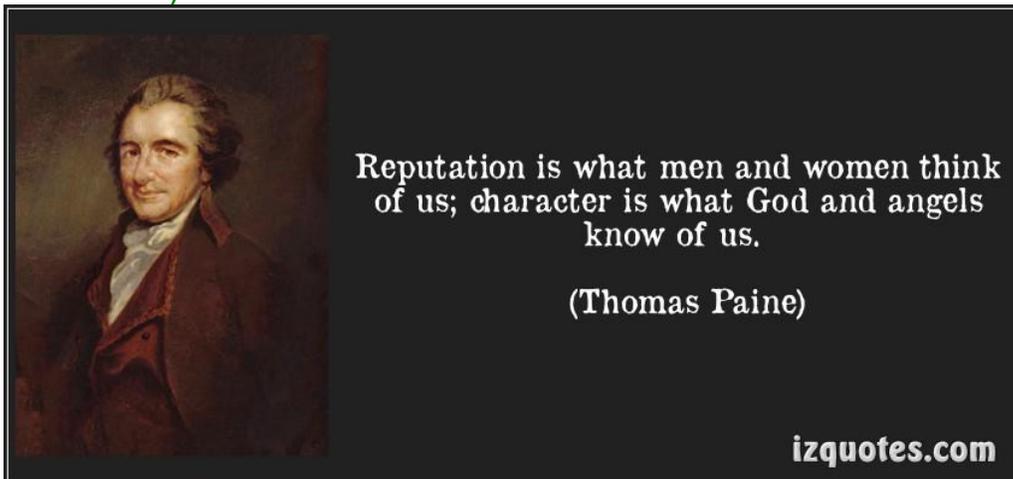
5 W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Col 2:9–10.

6 W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Eph 1:3.

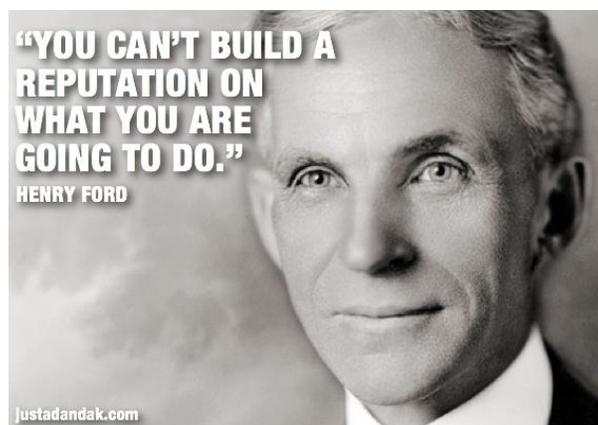
7 W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Ro 8:11.

evaluation on a set of criteria. It is important in business, education, online communities, and many other fields.

- Reputation may be considered as a component of identity as defined by others.



"If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself."
— D.L. Moody



My Reputation: What do others say about Me?

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

Luke 9:18 **And it happened, as He was alone praying**, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

- **Now just 6 months before Jesus' crucifixion**
- **Caesarea Philippi**
 - Brother of Herod Antipas
 - *Caesarea Philippi* was anciently called **Paneas**, from the mountain of Panium, or Hermon, at the foot of which it was situated, near the springs of Jordan. ⁸
 - About 30 miles north of the Galilee
- **The region of Pan**
 - Principality of Pan
 - Stronghold of Pan
 - Strongman's House
- **It is always a risky thing for a pastor to ask for people's opinions of him.** But Jesus was not much concerned by their answers to this question. ⁹
 - The Pharisees and Sadducees had surely swayed public opinion on Jesus
 - Most probably followed hoping for a new political leader – expected in the Messiah.
 - Entertainment value?
 - What was the popular opinion?



⁸ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere-Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word*, 1065 (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992).

⁹ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Mt 16:14 (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933).



Matt 16:14 So they said,
"Some say **John the Baptist**,
some **Elijah**,
and others **Jeremiah**
or **one of the prophets.**"

The closest disciples were ready with an answer:

- **John the Baptist**

Matthew 14:2 and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

Mark 6:14 Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

- **Elijah**

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

- **Jeremiah**

- The "Weeping prophet"

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men,

A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- It was believed that, before the people went into exile, Jeremiah had taken the ark and the altar of incense out of the Temple, and

hidden them away in a lonely cave on Mount Nebo; and that, before the coming of the Messiah, he would return and produce them, and the glory of God would come to the people again (2 Maccabees 2:1–12).¹⁰

- There was the prophecy found in **Esdras** that **Isaiah and Jeremiah** would return before the Messiah appeared.

2 Esdras 2:17–18

17 Do not fear, mother of children,
for I have chosen you, says the Lord.

18 I will send you help, **my servants Isaiah and Jeremiah.** 11

16:15 He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**”

- Here’s the question that really matters to Jesus.
 - Note emphatic position of ὑμεῖς [hūmeis], “**But you, who say ye that I am?**”¹²

16:16 Simon Peter answered and said,
“**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

It is interesting to note that each of the three gospels has its own version of the saying of Peter. Matthew has “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

- Mark is briefest of all (Mark 8:29): “**You are the Christ.**”
- Luke is clearest of all (Luke 9:20): “**You are the Christ of God.**”¹³

Peter had called Jesus the Messiah earlier:

John 6:69 Also we have come to believe and know that **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

The Christ:

- *The Christ* (so also NJB, NIV) is no more than a transliteration of the Greek, concerning which one commentator observes: “**The transliteration of the Gr. Christos by Christ in various English versions is inexcusable ... In its original context the question posed by Jesus and answered by Peter as spokesman demanded commitment to Jesus as Messiah.**”¹⁴

The Son of the Living God:

¹⁰ *The Gospel of Matthew: Volume 2*, ed. William Barclay, The Daily Study Bible, 136 (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1976).

¹¹ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*, 2 Esd 2:17–18 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989).

¹² A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Mt 16:15 (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933).

¹³ *The Gospel of Matthew: Volume 2*, ed. William Barclay, The Daily Study Bible, 137 (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1976).

¹⁴ Barclay Moon Newman and Philip C. Stine, *A Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew*, UBS Handbook Series, 520 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1992).

- Used only here in the Bible.
- Speaks of Jesus deity and eternal life.
- **Barclay:** “**The confession that Jesus is *the Son of the living God* means that in a unique way Jesus shares in that life, and that he himself has power to impart life to others.**” ¹⁵

Jesus reputation before coming in His 1st Advent:

¹⁵ Barclay Moon Newman and Philip C. Stine, *A Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew*, UBS Handbook Series, 521 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1992).