



Church of Christ

December 28, 2003

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

When people look at your life or hear your name, what do they think? Are you one that is above reproach or are there questions that surround you?

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.” (Phil. 2:14-15) Children of God are people that live above reproach. To be above reproach is not speaking of perfection, but a life that is beyond blame. Why do some people always seem to be surrounded by questionable situations? They have lived in questionable ways in the past and when they are in another situation that is questionable, it’s hard to see them as blameless!

God expects His shepherds to be men above reproach, *both inside and outside the church!* (I Tim. 3:2,7) Deacons are men that have been tested, seeing if they are trustworthy, faithful in their service to the Lord being found beyond reproach (I Tim. 3:10). It is most disturbing to see men in these roles who have questionable ways in their lives as they serve His people. Widows are to be ladies that are above reproach (I Tim. 5:7,14). Young men are to use language and live their lives above reproach (Titus 2:8). Preachers are to be above reproach!

When one is above reproach, it doesn’t mean they haven’t made mistakes. I’ve known people who have made tragic mistakes, but their humble, repentant attitude is what keeps them above reproach. They are always willing to do the right thing, even when they sin! Others aren’t humble and stay with the attitudes that got them in trouble to begin with. When we are above reproach, our behavior will be good no matter what position you hold in life. You can see it in the home, where wives are in subjection to their husbands, even to those who are unbelievers, as the husband observes their chaste and respectful behavior (I Pet. 3:1-3). That’s a woman beyond reproach! You can see it in the work force, instead of demanding and taking advantage of situations, being argumentative, you humbly and quietly do your work for the Lord rather than man (Col. 3:23-25). You stay away from meddling in others business, acting like a busybody! That’s a life above reproach. I remember a congregation where the people said if you wanted to know anything about anyone, just ask a certain elder’s wife! What a shame to hear such statements.

To live your life above reproach will keep you from blame and out of questionable situations. When accusations fly, your name will never be tied to it because of the way you daily live your life. How do people see you? Think about it!!!

Brent