

Intro:

READ WLC Q&A 143-144. Duties required. Promoting/preserving truth/**good names**.

Main Point of Text: Trustworthiness in reputation is due to being faithful in carrying the truth itself within themselves.

Sermon Point: *To thine own self be true.*

Move 1: *Preserve and promote truth.*

LC: “the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man”:

- *These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:* (Zec 8:16)
- Truth: firmness, reliable. Reflect reality to one another. Not just avoid lies, but truth promoter.

Move 2: *So your name precedes you in representing your and others' reputations.*

LC: “preserving and promoting of ... the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own”:

- Good name: reputation. Actually the greater focus of the commandment. Mt. 22:39 (Lev. 19:18).
- 3 John 12:
 - John encouraging Gaius to receive Demetrius. Vs. 1: He loves Him in the *truth*.
 - Apparently had trouble in past; encouraging to receive Demetrius, vs. 8. Perhaps doubt per vs. 9.
 - Can receive Demetrius into church. His own reputation precedes him as trustworthy because he has faithfully carried the truth within him. M. Henry: “His character was his commendation.”
 - Apostles bear witness to his name by their own good name known for their faithfully carrying truth.
 - Same said of Gaius: vss. 3, 5-8. John’s greatest joy: vs. 4. Truth/true: seven times in 14 verses.

Must have Truth in you. LC: “studying and practising of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report”: Phil. 4:8; John 17:17.

Conclusion:

That’s your reputation. Begins with your meditation. Psa 15:2; 86:11; 119:30. Ends in your witness: SC 77; Prov. 14:5, 25. Truth is an attribute of God: Titus 1:2; Psa 31:5; John 14:6. Christ must be in your own self.

To thine own self be true.