



# 246 ECCL ESIA STES

# lesson 5 a good name

**Read Ecclesiastes 7:1**

**Question: What does this verse mean by “good name”?**

**Question: As a Christian, what are some positive things about having a good name?**

- gives good name to Christ & Christianity
- people respect you

**Question: What are the downfalls to having a “bad name”?**

- read Ecclesiastes 9:18

## **2 Easy Ways We Can Have a “Good Name”:**

### **I. Don't Listen to Fools (Ecclesiastes 7:5)**

**A. People who are living in sin or running from God want to see others FAIL so they don't look as bad...therefore they will try to put you down**

1. as long as they feel like someone is worse off than them, they feel good

**Question: Have you ever been put down for doing the right thing?**

2. if they can point out the wrongs in a Christian, it makes them feel like they don't need Christianity

**Question: So, what kind of impact do you think it has when the lost or the “fool” has nothing negative to say about you?**

**B. If you stay CONSISTANT, people will respect you in the long run (verse 8)**

**C. LOVE those who persecute you...because you have put others down too (verse 20-22)  
\*Matthew 7:1-5**

### **II. Keep Your Mouth Shut (when you are tempted to speak negative back)**

**A. People don't respect someone who YELLS or who talks HATEFULLY  
-example: mother's who are always yelling at their kids hatefully**

**B. When someone speaks or does something against you...kill them with KINDNESS**

**Ask Yourself: Am I living a life that gives me, my family, my church, and my Savior a good name?**

# Small group discussion

## Talk About It:

1. What stood out to you the most from tonight's lesson?
2. Of the 2 points (ignoring the fools and keeping your mouth shut), what is hardest? Why?

Here are some other verses on this topic. If you don't have time in small groups, take these home:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-14. Here it says that the "fool" has a lot to say. Why do you think that the "fool" is characterized as someone who talks too much?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 10:20. Here it says that if you have negative words/thoughts about someone and you keep them to yourself, it will eventually get back to the person. How do you think that happens?
  - what is in your heart will come out in your actions

## On Your Own:

1. Who are some people that are negative toward me even when I do right?
  - \*How do I respond to them (either with your words, actions, or body language)?
  - \*What changes do I need to make?
2. Do I realize that at times I quickly argue or speak negatively back instead of being quite or speaking positive? In what way will I SPECIFICALLY work to change this?

Ask Yourself: Am I living a life that gives me, my family, my church, and my Savior a good name?

*"A good name is better than fine perfume..." ~ Ecclesiastes 7:1*