



Introduction

If your reputation precedes you what does it say? Over the last few decades the reputation of the church has definitely changed to the larger culture. Does our reputation reflect who we are and what we are about? If not, how do we go about changing that reputation? What are we to be known for?

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean if we say “you’re reputation precedes you?” How can that be good or bad? Can you think of a time when you realized someone’s reputation was very different from who they were?
2. What do you think the reputation of the “Church” is in the larger culture? In what ways does that matter? Does Northside have a reputation in the surrounding community? Is it accurate?
3. Read Luke 4:16-21 What “good news” was Jesus proclaiming and to who? If you look at the verses after 21-you see the crowd becomes angry. Why are they angry at what Jesus says is “good news?”
4. The idea that God loved the poor was good news-why would it be news at all or why would people assume that God loves some people more than others? What assumptions are made today about who God loves/cares for/provides for?
5. The second part of the good news was the declaration of freedom for the captive. What captivity is he referring to? What are some ways that people are really captive and they don’t know it?
6. How has the good news that God is for you and that God has paid the price to bring people back to him been twisted so that it doesn’t sound like good news to those who don’t know Jesus yet?
7. How can the fear of giving Christianity or the church a bad reputation actually keep you from being authentic and an encouragement to others to keep following Jesus? How can you reflect good news to people this week?

Moving Forward – Be known for Good News!