

**55 — CHARACTER AND REPUTATION**

There are few who do not know the difference between character and reputation, though there are few who have analyzed and defined their own ideas. A man's inward habits and mental condition form his character.

But the appearance which a man presents to the world, the outward exhibition, gives him his reputation. A man's character is his reality. It is the acting and moving force of his being. Reputation is the impression which he has made upon other men, it is their thought of him. Our character is always in ourselves, but our reputation is in others.

It is true that, ordinarily among honest men, the two go together. A man who lives out of doors among men, and who gives his fellows a fair chance to see his conduct, will find that he is accurately measured and correctly judged.

**(Lebanese Baccalaureate,  
First Session, 1964)**