

**Instructions for the Game of Life (Part 1)**  
**Instructions for Building a Good Name**  
**(Proverbs 22:1)**

**Introduction:** Proverbs is the most intensely practical book in the Old Testament because it teaches skillful living in the multiple aspects of life. So, we turn to the book of wisdom for *Instructions for the Game of Life*.

The wisdom of Proverbs instructs us on how to start life right, by securing and keeping a good name (i.e.) character. This morning I want to give us 3 simple steps to “Building a Good Name”

**I. *There must be a desire for a good name:(22:1)***

**A. What’s in a name?** To the Israelite of bible times, had much more significance than it does in most countries today.

1. **Names given for a purpose:** Where there was a connection between name and character, the request to know a person’s name was a request to know the character identified by the name. (Gen. 10:25; 25:24-26; 29:32-35; 35:16-18; 30:24; Isa.8:3-4; Hosea 1:4, 6, 9; Gen. 17:5, 15; Phil. 2:9; Gen. 32:28)
2. **The name meant the person:** According to this common biblical usage, to make known a person’s name, meant to make known the character and activity of that person. (Ps.22: 22; 99:3; Jn. 17:6; Ac.9:15)

*In short, Character counts. And we should desire to build for ourselves a good name that represents well who we really are. So how do we do it?*

**II. *There must be a development of a good name: (22:2-6)***

For Believers a good name means a good reputation. It is the fruit of good character.

- A. ***There are the things we count in life*** - Solomon said we ought to put a higher value on our reputation than on our riches.
- B. ***There are things in life that do count:*** Someone said “A reputation has more value... because a name cannot be replaced easily, not even with lots of money.”

*So how can I develop a good name, (i.e.) character?*

1. (v. 3) You must have an absolute standard by which you determine the difference between right and wrong (v. 3a) – you have to be able to identify evil when you see it.
2. (v.4) Those who know the Lord recognize that we are accountable to God’s standard.
3. (v.5) Those who want to develop a good name, are able and must be willing to obey God’s word to protect their reputation. (As a Christian, you carry the name of God with you wherever you go...and you are responsible for his name as well as your own.)
4. (v.6) It is our responsibility to teaching children that character counts.

*Character is not what we do... Character is who we really are.*

**III. *There must be a display of a good name:*** Character is built into us hour by hour, day by day, year by year, the same way we grow physically. If we don’t have a plan for building character, we won’t do it.

Warren Wiersbee writes: if you want to know what people are really like, find out what makes them angry, what makes them weep and what makes them laugh.

*A good name (i.e.) reputation, character... is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.*

**Conclusion:** What do you want to be?

As you think through the kind of person you want to be, Ask the Lord:

Dear God, please work on my character and help me shape my public reputation so I am the person You want me to be.