

Being a Credible Witness

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified.” —2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Every person struggles with perceptions. How am I perceived, and how do I perceive others? Do I judge others, and am I being judged? We often hear that first impressions are the most lasting, and many times are difficult to change. The Bible tells us to “...live above reproach” and “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” Why are perceptions important?

When I was in a customer-facing business, my district manager told me that, to the customer in front of me, I was the sum total of the company I worked for. He said that I represented the other 3500 employees, including himself. He explained that what I did and said “branded” the company.

In Christendom, we are considered ambassadors of God’s kingdom and representatives of Christ Himself. We are to be living examples of the truths that God desires to show to others about Himself. It befits us to be diligent and not allow ourselves to be a mirage to a world that is hungry for the truth, a false light that will disappoint those who take a closer look. On the contrary, if we are genuine articles, others will begin to hunger for the reality of God’s provision that we display. People are hungry and thirsty for the real thing.

“Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.” — Titus 2:7b

A common use for the term “credible witness” comes from the courtroom setting. There are two components required to be a credible witness. First, the witness must have a compelling testimony. The person testifying must have personally seen, experienced or was otherwise involved in an event related to their call to testify. It is the same with your Christian testimony—you must have had a personal, first-hand encounter with Jesus. Just as in a courtroom, second-hand testimony is considered hearsay, and is not allowed as evidence.

Secondly, the person giving their testimony must be credible. If the witness can be shown as not credible, then their testimony will be of little value or not considered at all. Similarly, a Christian who is not living according to God’s precepts and standards will compromise his or her testimony. Will your testimony be dismissed by the Judge as not credible and be thrown out?... Could you stand up to a cross-examination?

I believe that God brings people into our lives so that we can speak a word of encouragement or somehow show God’s love, His desire or His plan to them. I call these divine appointments and are not by accident. I must be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit so I will recognize these opportunities when they occur. I take these seriously because I see myself as a steward of those relationships that God places in my life. God has entrusted them to me, so I must guard and honor them by being a credible witness.

Has your salt become unsavory as Jesus explained, or is your light hidden under a basket? Could it be that deep inside you know that you are not living credibly? Is it possible that your lifestyle, your actions, your attitudes and your choices prevent you from being a credible witness for Christ? I encourage you to be introspective and consider with an open heart that God has called you to draw people to Him. People all around us are in need of what God has to offer.

Have you ever encountered a person who has discounted the stories in the Bible or tried to argue that men and monkeys are distant cousins? We can be free from the burden of having to prove to someone that the Bible is true. The way we live our lives before others will be powerful proof. It is never too late to become a credible witness. —Ω

 Information and Revelation
 Application and Transformation

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that teaches me what is true and makes me realize what is wrong in my life. It corrects me when I am wrong and teaches me to do what is right. You use it to prepare and equip me to do every good work. Thank You for Your love that draws me to know You deeply.

LORD, I ask for the desire, ability and courage to “...live above reproach” and “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” You have redeemed me to be Your child and to walk in Your ways. You do this so the people in my life will see the peace, security and joy that You have given me.

LORD, help me live credibly, so I can be the genuine article for people who are hungry and thirsty for the real thing. I ask You to work in my life so I will stand up to Your cross-examination.

LORD, I ask for divine appointments. Help me be sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit, so I will recognize these opportunities when they occur. Knowing that You have entrusted a person’s life to me, help me take these divine appointments seriously. I ask You to help me be a good steward of those relationships.

LORD, help me be a credible witness. I desire to examine myself so that my testimony will not be dismissed as not credible and be thrown out. I confess that You have called me to draw people to You. Help me have eyes to see and ears to hear the people all around me who are in need of what You have to offer. I lift up these petitions in the name of my precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Your glory. Amen.

By David E McFadden© 2026
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