

Reputation or Character?

Mother Teresa

Saint or Infidel?

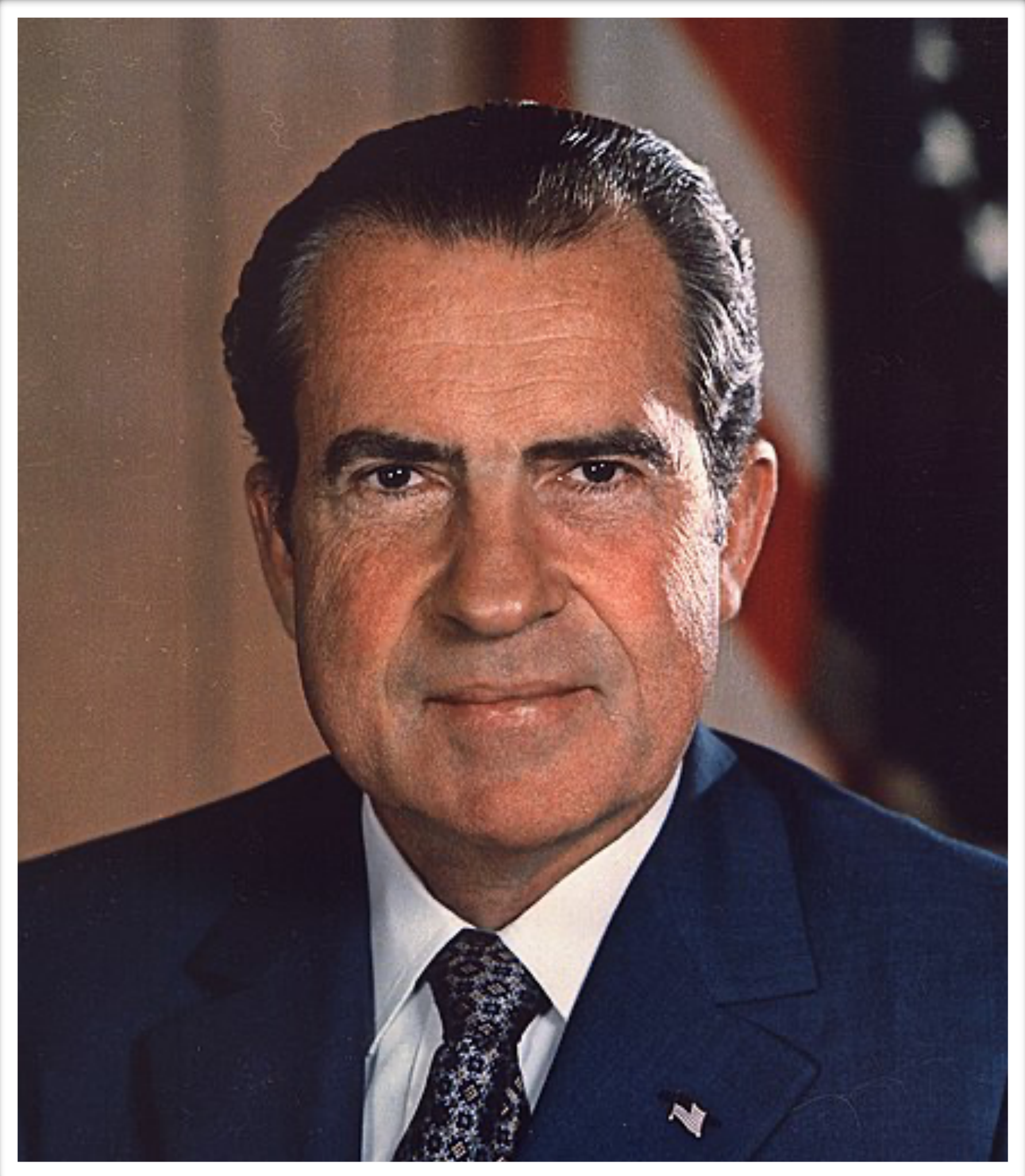


Her Missionary of Charity was (and still is) one of the richest organizations in the world, and yet at the facility under her watch, used syringes were rinsed with cold water, tuberculosis patients were not put in quarantine and pain medicine was not prescribed. Mother Teresa believed that suffering made you closer to God.

And during the years she ran the clinic in India on a budget of more than \$29 million, major floods occurred, one of which left 200 dead and more than 300,000 homeless.

What did Mother Teresa do with her money? She offered prayers. (<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/03/25/should-mother-teresa-be-canonized/mother-teresa-doesnt-deserve-sainthood>)

Richard Nixon



Bill Cosby



The general opinion or judgment of the public about a
person or thing. . . .

A widespread ascription of a characteristic or trait to a
person or thing. . . . (*American heritage Dictionary*)

Proverbs 22:1 (KJV) — 1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 (KJV) — 1 A good name is better than
precious ointment; . . .

Matthew 27:12 (KJV) — 12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Titus 2:3 (KJV) — 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

1 Timothy 3:11 (KJV) — 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

Matthew 4:1 (KJV) — 1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Revelation 12:10 (KJV) — 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Philippians 2:6–7 (KJV) — 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

. . . character excels reputation, as far as light excels darkness. Thousands of men to-day are living on their reputation, while their characters are as black as night. Thousands have the reputation of being very charitable, who at the same time have so little character that they will rob the fatherless, oppress the widow, and grind the faces of the poor.

Many have the reputation of being the very exemplars of liberality, giving abundantly to the church, to the Sunday-school, and to missions, who at the same time are so destitute of character as to rob their employers, their customers, or their creditors, that they may support their reputation of being liberal to the cause of religion.

If there were a vastly greater demand for character, and a good deal less of a willingness to be dazzled by reputation, the world would be much better off than it is. A good reputation can be made in a day, but years are required to make a character. A good reputation can be made by one single act, but it requires all the acts of a good life to form a good character, even in the eyes of men. (A. T. Jones, *Signs of the Times*, April 23, 1885, page 262.8)

IT is character alone that is acceptable to God. No brilliancy of reputation can dazzle him. He demands truth in the inward parts. “God looketh on the heart.” And here people make a great mistake as often as in anything else. Thousands when called upon to obey the truth of God, will put first their reputation, and what they think is their influence, and will make their allegiance to God—their character—yield to these.

Christ “made himself of no reputation;” so likewise did he who was the figure of Christ, he “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than all the treasures of Egypt.” So it will ever be. The disciple is not greater than his Lord.

The people of God have ever been subject to reproach; the truth of God has always been unpopular, and men often have the opportunity to follow Christ most closely by, like him, making themselves of “no reputation.” Often it becomes necessary for us to forfeit reputation before men, that we may perfect character before God. (A. T. Jones, *Signs of the Times*, April 23, 1885, page 262.9)

We must give others an example of not stopping at every trifling offense in order to vindicate our rights. We may expect that false reports will circulate about us; but if we follow a straight course, if we remain indifferent to these things, others will also be indifferent. Let us leave to God the care of our reputation. And thus, like sons and daughters of God, we shall show that we have self-control.

We shall show that we are led by the Spirit of God, and that we are slow to anger.

Slander can be lived down by our manner of living; it is not lived down by words of indignation. Let our great anxiety be to act in the fear of God, and show by our conduct that these reports are false. No one can injure our character as much as ourselves. It is the weak trees and the tottering houses that need to be constantly propped.

When we show ourselves so anxious to protect our reputation against attacks from the outside, we give the impression that it is not blameless before God, and that it needs therefore to be continually bolstered up (Manuscript 24, 1887). (Ellen White, *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1160.9)

Daniel 6:24 (KJV) — 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

The greatest want of the world is the want of men—
men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their
inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear
to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is
as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will
stand for the right though the heavens fall. (Ellen
White, *Education*, p. 57.3)

John 16:1–3 (KJV) — 1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

John 15:19 (KJV) — 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

1 John 2:15–17 (KJV) — 15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Revelation 14:12 (KJV) — 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Acts 24:14 (KJV) — 14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: