



Rev. Georgetta Head

There was a time in history when a borrower and lender would finalize a business deal with a handshake; or the parties involved would just speak the terms of the deal and their verbal agreement sealed the deal. This verbal agreement was a man's integrity, in other words – a man's word was his bond, or a handshake served as a contract.

In today's culture, businesses can no longer abide by these types of business agreements and opted for another way which is a legal written contract; an agreement in which both parties (borrower and lender) finalize a business deal by signing their names agreeing with the written terms.

However, before any agreement gets to this stage, a review of one's ability to repay a debt is examined, to determine the borrower's integrity to keep his/her word. This examination is done by obtaining a Credit Report on a potential borrower. A Credit Report is a consumers financial resume' revealing ones integrity and ability to repay debt along with a historical record of debt already paid.

Items listed on a Credit Report can contain either accurate or inaccurate information as recorded by the reporting agencies; that's why it is important for Consumers to take advantage of the once a year free Credit Report, by contacting the Credit Bureaus via phone or internet.

Credit reports can be intimidating, but all three reporting agencies report similar information and once understood you can determine the accuracy in the reported categories such as:

- Personal Information including Social Security Card
- Detailed information about current accounts.
- Credit Trades (Good History)
- Delinquent Accounts
- Public Reports
- Inquiries

These categories should be checked very carefully for typos especially within the personal information categories such as names and addresses. Then check for inaccurate information about accounts history. If errors are found, you can write a letter requesting this information to be corrected, such as personal information, or request inaccurate account history information to be removed.

If these categories do not contain good and accurate information, it can prevent you from obtaining credit from reliable creditors or you can get the credit, but pay a much higher interest rate. Call one of the Agencies below or log onto their website to get your free Credit Reports:

www.freecreditreport.com
Equifax 800-685-1111
Experian 888-397-3742
Transunion 800-888-4213

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.

Luke 6:38