

The Defilement of an Evil Report #3

October 26, 2016 – Terry Townsend

Ignorance Exposure Contamination Infection Disease

Infection - responding to an evil report with human reasoning and emotions rather than with spiritual understanding and genuine love

Proverbs 17:4 Proverbs 16:28

Symptoms of Infection

Believing the evil report is true

Forming negative opinions based on the report

Focusing on negative aspects of the person involved

Interpreting the person's words and actions as “supporting evidence”

Judging motives on the basis of the evil report

Backing away from the person in your spirit

Telling the evil report to others

Proverbs 25:18 (NLT)

18 Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow.

Disease - being mentally and emotionally controlled by the evil report and by the destructive spirit of the one who gave it

Proverbs 26:24-25

A diseased Christian has grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit by taking up the offenses of others, making them his own, and adding to them

Symptoms of Disease

Developing bitterness or rebellion, even though the person involved did not directly offend us.

Setting ourselves up as the judge in matters which are God's responsibility, and recruiting others to “our side”

Searching out evil reports and using them to give the **worst possible impression**

Proverbs 16:27

Believing such actions are **God's will** rather than giving non-Christians an excuse to **curse** and **reject** God because of your lack of love

1 Corinthians 6:5-8

How do you cleanse your mind from an evil report?

Humble yourself before God and **repent** of your sin

Ask God to **cleanse** your mind from the defilement of an evil report

Ask God to give you **genuine love** for each one involved in the evil report

Start **bathing** your mind with scripture

Proverbs 14:15, Psalms 19:13, 1 Corinthians 13:5-6, Ephesians 4:29

Proverbs 11:13

How to know when your heart has been cleansed

You lose your **urge** to **pass along** the evil report

You **grieve** over the giving of the evil report and your receiving it

You have a **genuine love** for the person involved in the report

You are now **quick** to examine your own heart for hidden sin

What is God directing you to do?

Contact the person who **gave you** the evil report?

1. What is your reason for telling me?
2. Where did you get your information?
3. Have you gone to those directly involved?
4. Have you personally checked out all the facts?
5. May I quote you if I check this out?

Contact the **person involved** in the situation?

Contact those **spiritually responsible** for the situation?