

The Defilement of an Evil Report, Part 2

October 19, 2016 – Terry Townsend

Satan is afraid of a **unified** church

2. Exposure

Proverbs 27:12

The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

Exposure is entering into a conversation with a person who is a **carrier** of an evil report

Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Luke 12:13-14

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

How to detect a carrier of an evil report

A carrier will usually **test your spirit** before giving you the evil report

May introduce a negative comment to see how you **react** or ask your **opinion** about the person

Any evidence of a **compatible** spirit will trigger the report.

An evil report may be disguised as a **prayer request**

A carrier may try to **impress** you with their **inside information**

How to detect an evil report

Five questions to ask

1. What is your **reason** for telling me?
2. **Where** did you get your information?
3. Have you gone to those **directly involved**?

Galatians 6:1

1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

4. Have you **personally** checked out all the **facts**?

5. May I **quote** you if I check this out?

Contamination/Defilement

Defilement is receiving an evil report from another person and **believing** that it is **true**

2 Samuel 15:1-6, Absalom

He was **organized** and **disciplined**

He made himself **available** to the people

He sought out people who were **unhappy**

He showed **individual interest** in people

He took up the **offenses** of the people who had been hurt

He gave an **evil report** about his father the king

He set himself up as the **answer** to their problems

He used his access to increase his **loyal following**

He led a **coup** against his own father that cost him his life

Just like touching something unclean defiles your hands, listening to an evil report defiles your **mind**

Proverbs 18:8

8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

It causes you to **judge** the person gossiped about without ever hearing **their side** of the story

Philippians 4:8

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things