

3 JOHN 6-7 NLT

⁶ THEY HAVE TOLD THE CHURCH HERE OF YOUR LOVING FRIENDSHIP. PLEASE CONTINUE PROVIDING FOR SUCH TEACHERS IN A MANNER THAT PLEASES GOD.

⁷ FOR THEY ARE TRAVELING FOR THE LORD, AND THEY ACCEPT NOTHING FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT BELIEVERS.

3 JOHN 8-9 NLT

⁸ SO WE OURSELVES SHOULD SUPPORT THEM SO THAT WE CAN BE THEIR PARTNERS AS THEY TEACH THE TRUTH.

⁹ I WROTE TO THE CHURCH ABOUT THIS, BUT DIOTREPHES, WHO LOVES TO BE THE LEADER, REFUSES TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH US.

3 JOHN 10 NLT

¹⁰ WHEN I COME, I WILL REPORT SOME OF THE THINGS HE IS DOING AND THE EVIL ACCUSATIONS HE IS MAKING AGAINST US. NOT ONLY DOES HE REFUSE TO WELCOME THE TRAVELING TEACHERS, HE ALSO TELLS OTHERS NOT TO HELP THEM. AND WHEN THEY DO HELP, HE PUTS THEM OUT OF THE CHURCH.

3 JOHN 11 NLT

¹¹ DEAR FRIEND, DON'T LET THIS BAD EXAMPLE INFLUENCE YOU. FOLLOW ONLY WHAT IS GOOD. REMEMBER THAT THOSE WHO DO GOOD PROVE THAT THEY ARE GOD'S CHILDREN, AND THOSE WHO DO EVIL PROVE THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW GOD.

AN INTERESTING THING HAPPENED TO ME ONE DAY WHILE I WAS WALKING THROUGH THE GROCERY STORE. I WALKED UP TO A YOUNG MAN WHOM I HAD SEEN BEFORE, BUT HAD NEVER HELD A CONVERSATION WITH. AS I APPROACHED HIM, I EXTENDED MY HAND AND GREETED HIM.

MARK D. MICHAEL, OVERCOMING GOSSIP: HOW SATAN, THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN, USES GOSSIP TO FRAGMENT THE BODY OF CHRIST (SHIPPENSBURG, PA: DESTINY IMAGE, 2011).

THE FIRST WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH WERE, “NOW WHAT IS YOUR NAME? I HAVE SEEN YOU BEFORE, BUT I DON’T THINK I KNOW YOU.” TO MY SURPRISE, THIS YOUNG MAN’S RESPONSE WAS, “YEAH, BUT I KNOW YOU”—SPOKEN IN A RATHER NEGATIVE TONE.

I WAS A BIT CONFUSED, THINKING MAYBE THIS WAS SOMEONE I KNEW IN THE PAST, BUT HAD FORGOTTEN. I QUESTIONED HIM AS TO WHEN WE HAD PREVIOUS ACQUAINTANCE AND HE SAID, "WE HAVE NEVER HAD ACQUAINTANCE. I KNOW YOU THROUGH A FRIEND."

AS IT TURNED OUT, THIS YOUNG MAN HAD A FRIEND WHO WORKED ON THE SAME JOB WITH ME IN THE PAST. HIS FRIEND HAD SHARED SOME GOSSIP ABOUT ME WITH HIM, AND HE WAS STILL USING THAT INFORMATION IN HIS ANALYSIS OF ME. THIS FRIEND OF HIS WAS NEVER A CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE, JUST A FELLOW EMPLOYEE WORKING IN THE SAME INSTITUTION.

THROUGH THIS SHORT CONVERSATION, WE
CAN SEE HOW GOSSIP HAS LASTING
EFFECTS ON PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS.
YEARS AFTER I HAD LEFT THAT JOB, THIS
MAN WAS STILL USING CERTAIN GOSSIP
ABOUT ME IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF ME.

THE UTTER RESOLUTENESS OF HIS EXPRESSION
“I KNOW YOU” WAS A GOOD INDICATOR THAT
HE BOTH BELIEVED THAT WHAT HE WAS TOLD
ABOUT ME WAS TRUE AND THAT IT STILL
APPLIED. IN THIS WAY, WHEN WE GOSSIP
ABOUT PEOPLE, WE FAIL TO GIVE THEM THE
OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE BEYOND THEIR
MISTAKES.

GOSSIP IS LIKE A PERSON WHO HAS A PICTURE OF YOU DOING SOMETHING WRONG, AND EACH TIME YOU SEEK TO MOVE BEYOND IT, THEY PULL OUT THE PICTURE TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR PAST, THUS LEAVING YOU FEELING INEXTRICABLY BOUND TO YOUR MISTAKES.

WHAT DISTURBED ME MOST ABOUT THIS INCIDENT WAS NOT THE GOSSIP NOR HIS INABILITY TO MOVE BEYOND IT. WHAT WAS MOST SHOCKING TO ME WAS THAT HE FELT THAT HE “KNEW ME.” THIS, ABOVE ALL ELSE, IS THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF THE EFFECTS OF GOSSIP. WHEN THE YOUNG MAN SAID TO ME, “I KNOW YOU,” THE FIRST THOUGHT IN MY MIND WAS, *YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT ME, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW ME!*

MARK D. MICHAEL, OVERCOMING GOSSIP: HOW SATAN, THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN, USES GOSSIP TO FRAGMENT THE BODY OF CHRIST (SHIPPENSBURG, PA: DESTINY IMAGE, 2011).

GOSSIP

- UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

GOSSIP

- INAPPROPRIATE SPREADING OF PRIVATE INFORMATION.

GOSSIPER

- A PERSON WHO ENJOYS TALKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S PRIVATE LIVES.

GOSSIPER

- A PERSON WHO SEEKS OUT PRIVATE INFORMATION FOR FRUITLESS PURPOSES.

GOSSIPER

- A PERSON WHO SPREADS RUMORS OR IDLE, FRUITLESS TALES.

PROVERBS 16:28 NIV

²⁸ A PERVERSE PERSON STIRS UP
CONFLICT, AND A GOSSIP SEPARATES
CLOSE FRIENDS.

PROVERBS 26:20 NIV

²⁰ WITHOUT WOOD A FIRE GOES OUT;
WITHOUT A GOSSIP A QUARREL DIES
DOWN.

PROVERBS 25:9–10 NLT

⁹ WHEN ARGUING WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR,
DON'T BETRAY ANOTHER PERSON'S SECRET.

¹⁰ OTHERS MAY ACCUSE YOU OF GOSSIP, AND
YOU WILL NEVER REGAIN YOUR GOOD
REPUTATION.

IN A COMPANY CULTURE GOSSIP WILL DESTROY ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU WORK SO HARD TO CREATE. THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY YOU CAN HAVE UNITY WITH A GROUP OF GOSSIPS. THE VERY NATURE OF GOSSIP IS THE OPPOSITE OF UNITY. INSTEAD OF PULLING PEOPLE TOGETHER, GOSSIP PUSHES THEM APART.

GOSSIP ABOUT THE COMPANY OR ABOUT LEADERSHIP IS A PARTICULARLY INSIDIOUS FORM OF DISLOYALTY. AND IT IS SUICIDAL WHEN THE PERSON GOSSIPING IS HURTING AND RUNNING DOWN THE PLACE AND THE PEOPLE WHO PAY HIM SO HE CAN FEED HIS FAMILY. WHY DO PEOPLE WANT THEIR OWN COMPANY TO FAIL?

I HATE GOSSIP SO BADLY THAT AFTER PUTTING UP WITH IT AT THE START I DECIDED TO HAVE A NO-GOSSIP POLICY IN OUR COMPANY. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GOSSIP AND WORK FOR ME. IF ONE OF MY LEADERS OR I CATCH A TEAM MEMBER GOSSIPING WE WILL WARN THEM ONCE, THEN WE WILL FIRE THEM.

MOST OF OUR HIRES ARE BROUGHT IN TO GROW SOMETHING OR FIX SOMETHING, WHICH MEANS PROBLEMS EITHER WAY. WHEN THEY GET BUMPED AROUND OR FRUSTRATED WITH LEADERSHIP OR A TEAM MEMBER, THEY NEED TO KNOW HOW WE DEFINE GOSSIP SO THEY CAN AVOID IT. PROBLEMS OR GRIPEs ARE FINE, BUT THEY MUST BE HANDED UP TO LEADERSHIP. PROBLEMS OR GRIPEs THAT ARE HANDED DOWN OR Laterally ARE BY DEFINITION GOSSIP AND RUN THE TEAM MEMBER THE RISK OF BEING FIRED.

I HAD A YOUNG LADY WHO WAS PROCESSING ORDERS WHOSE COMPUTER WAS TRASH. IT HAD DONE A POOR JOB GETTING IT FIXED OR REPLACED, SO SHE HAD A LEGITIMATE GRIPE. BUT SHE MADE THE MISTAKE OF SITTING WITH OUR RECEPTIONIST AND VENTING FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES AS TO HOW MANAGEMENT DIDN'T CARE AND IT WAS INCOMPETENT AND HOW COULD DAVE LET THIS GO ON.

RAMSEY, DAVE. ENTRELEADERSHIP: 20 YEARS OF PRACTICAL BUSINESS WISDOM FROM THE TRENCHES (P. 234). HOWARD BOOKS. KINDLE EDITION.

MY RECEPTIONIST HAS NEVER FIXED A COMPUTER OR BUDGETED TO REPLACE A COMPUTER, SO SHE COULD DO NOTHING TO HELP THIS STUPID LITTLE GOSSIP. IF SHE WANTS HER COMPUTER FIXED SHE SHOULD TRY SEEING SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN. HAND YOUR NEGATIVES UP AND YOUR POSITIVES DOWN. OTHERWISE IT STARTS TO SOUND A LOT LIKE GOSSIP.

RAMSEY, DAVE. ENTRELEADERSHIP: 20 YEARS OF PRACTICAL BUSINESS WISDOM FROM THE TRENCHES (P. 234). HOWARD BOOKS. KINDLE EDITION.

1 TIMOTHY 5:11 NKJV

¹¹ BUT **REFUSE THE YOUNGER WIDOWS**; FOR
WHEN THEY HAVE BEGUN TO GROW WANTON
AGAINST CHRIST, THEY DESIRE TO MARRY,

1 TIMOTHY 5:13 NKJV

¹³ AND BESIDES THEY LEARN TO BE IDLE,
WANDERING ABOUT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE,
AND NOT ONLY IDLE BUT ALSO GOSSIPS AND
BUSYBODIES, SAYING THINGS WHICH THEY
OUGHT NOT.

1 TIMOTHY 5:14-15 NKJV

¹⁴ **THEREFORE I DESIRE THAT THE YOUNGER WIDOWS MARRY, BEAR CHILDREN, MANAGE THE HOUSE,** GIVE NO OPPORTUNITY TO THE ADVERSARY TO SPEAK REPROACHFULLY.

¹⁵ **FOR SOME HAVE ALREADY TURNED ASIDE AFTER SATAN.**

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11–12 KJV

¹¹ AND THAT YE **STUDY TO BE QUIET**, AND TO **DO YOUR OWN BUSINESS**, AND TO **WORK WITH YOUR OWN HANDS**, AS WE COMMANDED YOU;

¹² **THAT YE MAY WALK HONESTLY TOWARD THEM THAT ARE WITHOUT**, AND THAT YE MAY HAVE LACK OF NOTHING.

3 JOHN 1–2 NLT

¹ THIS LETTER IS **FROM JOHN**, THE ELDER. I AM **WRITING TO GAIUS**, MY DEAR FRIEND, WHOM I LOVE IN THE TRUTH.

² **DEAR FRIEND, I HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH YOU AND THAT YOU ARE AS HEALTHY IN BODY AS YOU ARE STRONG IN SPIRIT.**

3 JOHN 3-4 NLT

³ SOME OF THE TRAVELING TEACHERS RECENTLY RETURNED AND MADE ME VERY HAPPY BY TELLING ME ABOUT YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND THAT YOU ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH.

⁴ I COULD HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN ARE FOLLOWING THE TRUTH.

3 JOHN 5-6 NLT

⁵ DEAR FRIEND, YOU ARE BEING FAITHFUL TO GOD WHEN YOU CARE FOR THE TRAVELING TEACHERS WHO PASS THROUGH, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE STRANGERS TO YOU.

⁶ THEY HAVE TOLD THE CHURCH HERE OF YOUR LOVING FRIENDSHIP. PLEASE CONTINUE PROVIDING FOR SUCH TEACHERS IN A MANNER THAT PLEASES GOD.

3 JOHN 7-8 NLT

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