

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 5, 1999

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"Taming the Tongue"

James 3:1-12

An evil report involves distortion of facts, incomplete facts or false information. It is given with wrong motivations and if taken at face value will cause the hearer to come to inaccurate conclusions and possibly respond with unscriptural "solutions".

How can we avoid becoming involved in giving birth to evil reports?

Always pause to reflect when speaking about another person (2 Corinthians 11:11).

Go to prayer (Matthew 26:41)

Examine your own life carefully and confess your sins (Matthew 7:5).

Ask the following questions:

Have I acted responsibly with the information that I am about to share?

What is our biblical responsibility when we become aware of sin in a fellow believer's life?

Willful sin is to be confronted privately (Matthew 18:15-17)

We have the additional responsibility of coming alongside of those caught in sin with a spirit of gentleness (Galatians 6:1-5).

The man who is sinning willfully wants to continue in his sin and the man who is caught in his sin does not.

Will this information that I am about to share serve some good purpose (Philippians 4:2,3)?

Be sure that the individual you are approaching for help is perceived as friendly by the person you are attempting to restore.

Be sure that you do not by-pass those people who are personally responsible for the spiritual oversight of the person you are concerned about.

Have I considered how to share this information in the very most positive light (Matthew 7:12)?