

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for September 12, 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? Follow these three guidelines.

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

While pausing we need to go to prayer (Matthew 26:41)

When we pray we need to give priority to our own sinfulness (Matthew 7:5).

Ask the following three questions:

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

Those sinning willfully are to be confronted privately (Matthew 18:15-17)

Those who are overtaken in a sin are to be restored gently (Galatians 6:1-5).

Those who are unaware of their sin are to be taught lovingly (Ephesians 4:15).

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

When you go to share a perceived shortcoming go to an individual who has been entrusted with the spiritual oversight of the person who needs help and humbly submit yourself to their counsel (Hebrews 13:17).

This is for the protection of the church.

A bitter heart can be easily deceived (Hebrews 12:15)

A willful heart can be easily deceived (3 John 9-10)

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