



**GROW  
IN  
GRACE**  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 43, No. 38, September 27 , 2016** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

## **THE DEFILING, DEADLY TONGUE!**

James 3:6-8(NKJV) ***And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.***

**What causes** conflicts in families, churches, missionary teams, or organizations to flare out of control and split the entire group? ... **What causes** close friendships to be broken even when neither party offended the other? ... **Why** are attempts to restore a struggling, weakened, or fallen Christian brother or sister often met with defeat? **LET US REMEMBER:** Sin entered the Garden of Eden via **the receiving of a satanic slander** against God! Today, one of satan's strategies is to get Christians to accuse one another, to be bitter one toward another, to gossip about one another, to slander one another; and/or to CURSE one another! (To Curse: Could be 'to cuss' someone with 'bad' words; but more commonly it is to rain down evil, slanderous judgments against someone... with our tongue, of course.)

YES, GOD'S WORD IS TRUE, "... *no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*"... **ALL THE MORE REASON to look to additional portions of God's Word in order to WIN BATTLES over unruly tongues!** KNOW THIS: **Satan will gain an advantage** over us if we are ignorant of his devices, (2 Corinthians 2:11); and if we are not careful to fully embrace the Word of God. "*The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; it DEFILETH the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell*" (James 3:6).

**The Tongue Has Destructive Power:** "... *he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends*" (Proverbs 17:9). Typically, this 'repeating' of words has to do with passing on a distorted or false report which influences others to form an evil opinion about another person before the whole truth is known. SUCH evil reports can be communicated by words, facial expressions, gestures, and/or tonal patterns. They can be subtle or obvious, quiet or angry, sweet or bitter.

**NOTE:** (1) We are ALL capable of giving evil reports; capable of being deceived by such reports; and capable of carelessly passing them on. **WE ARE CAPABLE OF BEING A,**

**1. WHISPERER:** One who secretly passes on evil reports to others (Psalm 41:7).

**2. GOSSIP:** One who magnifies and sensationalizes rumors and partial information. (See 1 Cor. 5:11 - railer).

**3. SLANDERER:** One who seeks to destroy another's credibility or reputation with damaging facts, distortions of facts, and/or evil suspicions (See Numbers 14:36).

**4. BUSYBODY:** One who digs up evil reports and makes it his/her business to spread them by means of gossip, slander, or whispering.

**TO CHRISTIANS, THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES THIS WARNING:** "*let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters*" (1 Peter 4:15). **OUR TONGUES SPEAK FROM OUR HEARTS!** (Matthew 15:18-20)

**HERE ARE SOME HARD to confess, common causes of evil reports:** (See James 3:14-18) **1. BITTERNESS:** Reacting because of personal hurts. **2. REBELLION:** Justifying an independent spirit. **3. DECEPTION:**

Believing that evil reports are right to give. **4. PRIDE:** Wanting to exalt self. **5. GUILT:** Justifying past actions or attitudes. **6. ENVY:** Desiring what belongs to another.

**SATAN LOVES EVIL REPORTS!** He uses them to cause Christians to close their spirit toward each other; to multiply conflicts; to produce more ungodliness; and to prompt non-Christians to mock Christianity and reject Christ.

**WE ARE IN PERSONAL DANGER when we carelessly listen to GOSSIPS, SLANDERERS, BUSYBODIES, OR TALEBEARERS:** **1.** *"A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on and are punished"* (Proverbs 27:12). **2.** *"Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off."* (Psalm 101:5).

**3.** *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them (Romans 16:17).*

### **GOSSIPS, SLANDERERS, BUSYBODIES, OR TALEBEARERS,**

**1. May test your spirit** before giving you the evil report. Any evidence of a compatible spirit in you will encourage him/her to give you the report.

**2. May check your acceptance of his report** before giving it to you. They may do this by asking for your opinion about the person or by dropping a negative comment and observing your response to it.

**3. May try to get you to ask for the evil report by creating curiosity for it.** Some starters might be: "Have you heard about (the person)?" "Wait 'til I tell you about (the person)!" [More subtle: "I probably should not talk about this... just pray for So and So! There is something I feel led to tell you, but you must not tell a soul!]

**4. May** seek to communicate an evil report by asking us for counsel or by sharing a concern for the person involved. [Prayer requests can be evil reports in disguise!]

**5. WILL VERY LIKELY** set forth one-sided accusations against an absent person, seeking to build sympathy for themselves or for a friend; and seeking to ingrain a bad impression about the absent person.

**Questions to ask before listening to a possible GOSSIP, SLANDERER, BUSYBODY, OR TALEBEARER,**

**1. "What is your reason for wanting to tell me negative information about 'so and so'... in their absence?"** (Widening the circle of gossip compounds the problem.)

**2. "Where did you get your information?"** Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure signal of an evil report. (Even as is asking you to 'promise not to tell anyone!') BEWARE OF SUCH PROMISES.

**You might say something like,** "I will promise not to tell anyone so long as keeping that promise does not require me to disobey God, or potentially cause danger to you or others in the body of Christ, or violate my conscience before God!"

**3. "Have you gone to those directly involved?"** *Christlikeness is not measured by protecting the sources of EVIL REPORTS in the name of protecting confidentiality.* Spirituality is not measured by how well we accuse or expose an offender, but by how effectively we seek to restore an offender (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15-17).

**4. "Have you personally checked out all of the facts?"** "Facts" become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives. (Prov. 18:17; 20:6; 21:2)

**5. "When I check this out to make double sure that we have the facts— may I quote you?"**

**COMMON REALITY:** Even after one hears 'BOTH SIDES'... the truth still may not be known. GOD'S WORD INFORMS US THAT TO 'take sides' or 'draw a conclusion' after only hearing 'one side' is foolish— Prov. 18:13; 18:17; 20:6; 21:2.

**HAVE YOU BEEN WOUNDED BY A TALEBEARER?** *"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly"* (Proverbs 26:22). **In other words, listening to an evil report can defile one's mind.** This is a reality which must be properly dealt with: *"Lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (Heb 12:15). *"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going"* (Proverbs 14:15). *"As coals are to*

*burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife" (Proverbs 26:21).*

**BEWARE!** If our minds are not cleansed from soul-contamination which comes from listening to the Talebearer's evil reports— **wrong attitudes, opinions, conclusions, and actions will take root...** even toward very close friends, "*a whisperer separateth chief friends*" (Proverbs 16:28

### **EVIDENCES OF BEING WOUNDED FROM RECEIVING EVIL REPORTS:**

**1. Believing** the report is true— even though you don't have all the facts; and/or have not heard both sides of the case, firsthand. **2. Forming** negative opinions based on the incomplete report. **3. Focusing** on negative aspects of the person who has been spoken against. **4. Interpreting** the talebearer's words and actions as valid, "supporting evidence". **5. Judging** motives of an accused on the basis of the evil report. **6. Backing away** in your spirit from the one-sidedly accused person. **7. Telling** the evil report to others.

**EVIDENCE that we have grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit by taking up the offenses of others, making them our own, and even adding to them:**

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

**2. Setting** ourselves up as the judge in matters which are God's responsibility, and recruiting others to "our side".

**3. Searching out** evil reports and using them to give the worst possible impression: "*An ungodly man diggeth up evil and in his lips there is as a burning fire*" (Proverbs 16:27).

**4. Believing** that such actions are actually accomplishing God's will rather than realizing that we are sadly giving non-Christians occasion to blaspheme God's name because of our lack of genuine love: "*I speak to your shame- brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the*

*unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you... ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren: (I Cor 6:5-8).*

## **WE ALL KNOW about Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18: 15-17—WHAT ALL TOO OFTEN HINDERS US FROM HEEDING THIS DIVINE, FREEING TRUTH?**

\*\* Attempts to restore a Christian who has been overtaken in a fault WILL NOT LIKELY BE UNDERTAKEN and/or will usually fail **unless the defilement of listening to evil reports is first cleansed and then replaced** with the spirit of Christ's love, humility, and forgiveness.

**Do I have an urge to tell someone else an evil report?** *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).*

*"A talebearer revealeth secrets, but he that is a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Proverbs 11:13). "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love, but he that repeateth a matter separateth very [close] friends" (Proverbs 17:9).*

### **SOLUTIONS:**

- 1. Ask God to cleanse your mind** from the defilement of an evil report.
- 2. Give genuine Christ-like love** for each one involved in the evil report.
- 3. Cleanse your mind** with appropriate Scripture: **Have I accepted the evil report as true?** *"The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going" (Proverbs 14:15). "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins?" (Psalms 19:13).*
- 4. OBEY Galatians 6:1 and/or Matthew 18:15-17 and/or 1 Corinthians 6:1-7!**

**I can know my heart is clean, When** I lose my urge to tell someone else the evil report, **When** I grieve over the fact that a report was given, **When** I have genuine love toward the person involved in the report; **When** I am prompt to examine my own life in failures; and when I obey the above verses!

**[IMPORTANT NOTE:** THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN REAL wrong doing, wickedness, and/or CRIMES MUST BE REPORTED to the appropriate authorities.]

[The above article is developed from articles in my files]

ABOUNDING Mercy, Grace, Love, and PEACE to all in Christ!

James Bell [www.southsidegallatin.org](http://www.southsidegallatin.org)

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS: Jail Ministry**— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley at 615-804-3054.

**WEDNESDAYS:** ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym) ☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY**— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **Studies in the Gospel of Luke! NEXT: October 11 @ 11:00am;** Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

**MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in **ROMANS**}... **Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru** awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

## **SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

### **October 2:**

**9:30am-** Sunday School

**10:45am-** Worship Service & Children's Church

**NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch  
1:00pm Service

**October 9: 9:30am-** Sunday School  
**10:45am-** Worship Service & Children's Church  
**NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch  
1:00pm Service

**October 16: 9:30am-** Sunday School  
**10:45am-** Worship Service & **LORD'S SUPPER**  
**NO** Children's Church; **NO NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch  
**NO** 1:00pm Service  
**\*\*\* HOME GROUPS MEET IN THE EVENING**

**October 23: 9:30am-** Sunday School  
**10:45am-** Worship Service & Children's Church  
**NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch / No 1:00pm Service

**\*\* EVENING SERVICE WITH JOHN MACKAY, OF CREATION RESEARCH**

**October 30: 9:30am-** Sunday School  
**10:45am-** Worship Service & Children's Church  
**NOON** 'Covered-dish' Lunch / 1:00pm Service

**5:30pm-7:30pm— FAITHFUL MEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING**

**SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!***

**For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades.** Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***  
<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>