

Do Not Slander One Another

Scripture

“...Do not slander one another.” [James 4:11]

Thought

Slander means making false accusations or damaging statements about someone. Let me ask you this – do you ever say damaging words about your spouse to a friend or work colleague? We sometimes think it’s okay to “vent” or “get something off our chest” or just feel like we are joking around with our friends, but if we are honest - it’s really just slander, and it is hurting our marriages. When we were first married, both Vince and I would occasionally make snide, passive-aggressive remarks about each other, and then cowardly laugh like it was supposed to just be a joke. Ever done that? Here is the problem with that. How you talk about each other is just as important as how you talk to each other. We must be more intentional about the words coming out of our mouth, not just to our spouse but about our spouse - whether they are present or not. Speaking slander about your spouse has long-term damaging effects, not just on them, but on your whole family. I have seen women belittle their husbands in front of their children and then wonder why their husbands have no authority to help challenge and correct their kids when they are teenagers. I have seen men bad mouth their wives to their mothers and then wonder why family gatherings feel so strained and uncomfortable.

Barbara has taught in the bible college for many years now in our church. What has been interesting to me is how many of the bible college students feel like they know me and like me, even though they may not have personally met me yet. Why? Because my wife speaks well of me behind my back. Beyond well actually – she makes me sound like a saint – which I’m fully aware I’m not. But if I’m honest, when I have students, I’ve never met before, approaching me saying how good it is to finally meet me, and how much they admire me, it does something in me. It makes me want to be the person she says I am. It makes me want to be better, bolder and love her the way she deserves. It builds me and my reputation and helps me walk with my head held high. Why? Because words have the power to build or tear down, to do good or do damage. If there is a strain or problem that needs to be addressed, then do just that – address it. Have an adult conversation using the filter of honor and respect to work through the issue. But have that conversation in private or with a counselor, and then keep it there.

Prayer

Insert Here Lord, forgive me for the damaging words I have spoken about my spouse. Help me lord to use wisdom with my words and speak life over my marriage and my spouse. Help me to change any relationships or patterns that want to keep me in a place of speaking negatively about them in the future. In Jesus name. Amen

P.S.

Gossip (good or bad) spreads like the flu says scientists. So eventually your words will get back to your spouse - so make them good.

Day 3



Action Step

Repent if you need to of any slanderous comments you have made. If you need to repent to your children or your extended family members about words spoken against your spouse, do that too. Make a commitment today that the words you speak about your spouse will be life giving – even if that means you are speaking prophetically about who God sees them to be, at this point in time. Go out of your way today to tell someone else some good qualities about your spouse – whether they are present or not. You will be surprised how quickly your words will get back to them.