

## Guarding The Heart

There are things that we do that the Lord requires that are easy to do. Not setting up the tree in December or hiding eggs on a certain Sunday. Partaking in the foolishness of Feb. 14th and dressing up in Oct. But there is a lot more to serving God than just keeping the Sabbath day and His High Holy days, and staying away from pagan practices. What I would like to deal with here is something that we all can easily fall back into if we are not diligent in guarding our hearts.

There is a fine line between tale bearing and sowing discord among brethren, but both are an abomination to our God.

### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

**16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:  
17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,  
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

Of course, as with most things, We think that we have all the answers:

### **Proverbs 14:12**

**12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**

Most of us don't realize that there is also a fine line between telling something as we see it and going to unrighteous judgment on a brother or sister. Years ago a brother asked me a few simple questions:

Is our conversation edifying?

Is there a legitimate reason that we are discussing what someone did when it doesn't affect us directly?

Do we know the things we are talking about to be absolutely true or are they hearsay?

One example is this. If I tell Tom something, by the time he tells Judy and Judy tells Karen and Karen tells Bob and Bob tells Phil and Phil gets back to me, the story will have changed and the facts will have been distorted.

We can all forget too quickly how the Lord says to conduct ourselves.

### **1 Peter 4:11**

**11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

There is no middle of the road when it comes to serving the great God of Israel.. Therefore we must all watch how we talk about others and in what situations we get involved.

All of us hang on to some worldly possessions whether they be sports, entertainment such as movies or the nightlife, or an endless list of things that if done legally and in moderation are gifts from the Most High God. But if we do not guard our hearts these worldly possessions can take us away from what is most important to us. Conducting ourselves in a way that is acceptable to the Father:

**Colossians 3:17**

**17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

Sometimes it is way too easy to get involved where we shouldn't be, especially when it comes to family or our best friends. We mean well and really want to be of help but if we take an honest look at what it is that we are doing we will find that we are putting our nose where it doesn't belong. What this ends up doing is causing hard feelings. This causes all involved to take sides and causes division between friends and loved ones. This even pushes those that are not in the word farther from it. The Lord is very clear about not meddling in the affairs of others. It is one thing to give wise council, but it is another thing to actively take a stand in any given situation that does not involve us directly:

**1 Peter 4:15**

**15 But 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.**

We don't like it when others get involved in our affairs so why should we get in other peoples business. Most of us don't know what we should do in any given situation but we can be quick to try to fix other peoples problems. This is known in many circles as causing drama because all it does is cause hard feelings and hurt others, especially when we are not asked to get involved.

Tale bearing takes us back to one of the simple questions, is our conversation edifying? Whether something is true or not, it is not my job to tell anyone about someone else's business. Unless we are guarding our heart and trying to watch our tongues, it is easy to slip into the role of a talebearer.

**Proverbs 11:13**

**13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.**

Remember what Jesus said, to love your neighbor as yourself!

**Matthew 22:39**

**39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

We wouldn't want others meddling in our affairs. We wouldn't want others talking about us whether the things they might say are true or not. My business is not anyone else's and

their business is not mine. When others get involved where they shouldn't be and spread rumors or put my business out there for others to know, it hurts us in ways that sometimes can not be described. It would be better to take a beating and get it over with than to have to deal with gossip on the street. Remember that by the time the story gets around it will become drastically distorted. This causes further drama and division among brethren, even those that are not directly involved.

**Proverbs 18:8**

**8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.**

The Lord tells us that we should not associate with people like this. This sometimes can be hard to separate ourselves from those that are talebearers or busybodies in other men's affairs, especially when it is family that are doing these abominations. But when we are able to move past this we will see that our life will become less complicated.

**Proverbs 20:19**

**19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.**

**Psalms 1:1-2**

**1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**

**2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

When we sanctify ourselves or set ourselves apart from those that cause strife we will see that it is much easier to focus on what is the most important thing to us. Fearing God and keeping His commandments.

**Proverbs 26:20**

**20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.**

When we place ourselves on the outside looking in we will see the useless struggles that we used to go through, and this will place us in the position to be of real help to those that would like to pursue serving the true and living God. We now have truly become a living example of what it means to serve this mighty God. We are no longer dealing with all the drama but are living according to the fruits of the spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

**23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

We all fall short at times. But it is not about us falling short, we all will. It is more important on how we respond when we fall short. Do we repent and ask God for forgiveness and pray for what corrective measures we can do? Do we double our efforts to guard our hearts and watch our tongues, or do we continue to hurt others?