



DEFINITIONS

1. Jerry Bridges

- **Gossip** = “passing on to others the faults and failings of another when there is no need to do so.”
- **Slander** = “making a false statement, or a true one in a way that unnecessarily damages another’s reputation.”

2. John Piper

- **Definition (from sermons on James 4:11, Titus 3:2, and Desiring God articles):**
 - **Gossip** = “speaking about someone else’s faults or sins behind their back with no design of helping them.”
 - **Slander** = “speaking false or injurious words about someone with the intent or effect of damaging their reputation.”

3. John MacArthur

- **Definition (from sermons and commentaries, esp. on James 3; Ephesians 4; Titus 3):**
 - **Gossip** = “bearing news about someone else that is unnecessary and often harmful, even if it’s true.”
 - **Slander** = “speaking lies, half-truths, or misrepresentations to damage another’s reputation.”

PRIMARY GUIDING COMMANDS

1. LOVE God and do EVERYTHING to bring Him _____ ... to show in your life what the character of God is - Colossians 1:18 / 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1

- Value God’s glory above your feelings, needs, wants, expectations
- FEAR GOD and let how HE views your actions weigh heavily

2. Deal HONESTLY with _____ first Matthew 7:3-5 / Jeremiah 17:9 / 2 Corinthians 12:20–21 / James 4:1–12

3. Keep it between you _____ James 4:11 / Matt 5:23-24 / Matthew 18:15 / 1 Peter 4:8

4. _____ ... no matter how many times and how “untrustworthy”

It is OFF the account when you forgive. It's behind. Done. Over. Mat 18:21-22 / Mat 18:35 / Mat 6:12-15 / Ephesians 4:31-32 / Colossians 3:12-15

5. PRIMARILY seek repentance and change for _____ ... not your peace Galatians 6:1

6. Passages about gossip and slander

Leviticus 19:16 / Exodus 23:1 / James 4:11-12 / Ephesians 4:31 / Colossians 3:8 / 1 Peter 2:1 / Titus 3:1-2 / 1 Timothy 5:13 / Proverbs 11:13 / Proverbs 20:19 / Proverbs 25:9-10 / Proverbs 16:28 / Proverbs 6:16-19 / Proverbs 26:20, 22 / JAMES 3

PRIMARY PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

This issue is not really what am I allowed to say it is really what am I allowed to think?

This is all about how I think of others first and foremost because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.



If the whole class could see your last 100 THOUGHTS and actions towards this person ... would we really see ...

1. Do I really _____ them and is this an act based OUT of that? - Mat 5:43-48 / Rom 13:9-10 / Eph 5:29

2. Do I really _____ for them, not just for their repentance and change? MATT 5:43-45

3. Do I _____ LOVE in these ways? Rom 12:14-21 / 1 Peter 4:8

- Do good to them
- Not giving back what you get
- Doing all you can for harmony
- Not thinking you're always so perfect
- Not making them pay ... EVER
- Living rightly and with integrity
- Do EVERYTHING you can to make peace
- No vengeance ... inwardly or outwardly
- Trust God for the long haul
- Do kind things for them.
- Do good to them as they do evil to you
- COVER their sin to others

4. Am I quick to _____ toward Matthew 5 or run from it - *Matthew 5:21–24 / Matthew 5:38–41 / Matthew 5:43–48*

5. Principle of suffering

- Do I recognize that even this is from God
- He is conforming me
- I must grow IN this and not primarily fix or get rid of this
- Am I accepting the humbling this brings
- Am I recognizing the purposefulness of God in this

6. Principle of Christ's example

- How does my situation correlate to those Christ endured ... and still endures from me and the rest of the Church who supposedly love Him
- How do I see Christ handling the difficulties He faced
- How often did Christ involve others in the sins of his disciples

WHAT YOU REALLY WANTED THIS LESSON TO BE ABOUT

When and how am I allowed to talk about this

SEE ENDNOTES

WARNING: DONT MAKE RELIGIOUS OR CULTURAL EXCUSES

- Processing
- Counsel
- Prayer requests
- Sharing
- Getting support
- MULTITUDE of counselors

QUESTIONS:

- ☐ Can it be overlooked?
- ☐ Can it be covered?
- ☐ What is the NEED for another to know?
- ☐ Can you get permission to share / seek counsel?
- ☐ Can you share / get counsel without others knowing WHO ... or knowing who but not knowing WHAT?
- ☐ Am I sharing something that's public knowledge because I want to have the joy of being the one who tells it first?
- ☐ Am I talking about it because they're gonna know anyway so I justify it?

- ☐ Am I telling it because if they hear the other person side, I want them to know my side of the story ahead of time?
- ☐ Am I telling it because it somehow makes me feel better and less guilty to share how the other is so wrong?
- ☐ Am I sharing this because I don't like having to do all the work by myself?
- ☐ Am I sharing this because I don't wanna bear my weight and not have other people know what I'm bearing?
- ☐ Am I hiding behind the word council when I really know where I need to do biblical work?
- ☐ Am I looking for every possible way to NOT share?

Questions Bridges:

- *Is it true?*
- *Is it kind?*
- *Is it necessary?*
- *Am I part of the problem or the solution?*
 - He emphasizes that if you are not directly involved in restoring the person (Gal 6:1; Matt 18), you should likely keep silent.

Questions Piper:

- *Will this word promote humility or pride in me?*
- *Will this word honor Christ's blood-bought unity in the church or tear it down?*
- *Have I gone to the person first (Matt 18), or am I talking about them without them present?*
- *Would I say this the same way if they were standing here?*
- *Does this conversation aim at grace and restoration?*

Questions MacArthur:

- *Does this edify or tear down? (Eph 4:29).*
- *Would I say this if the person were present? (Matt 18:15).*
- *Is this a matter that should be covered in love or confronted face-to-face? (1 Pet 4:8; Gal 6:1).*
- *Am I disguising gossip as a prayer request, "concern," or "venting"?*
- *Am I submitting to God's order of due process? (1 Tim 5:19; Deut 19:15).*

ARE YOU AT THE POINT OF NO MORE RESOURCES?

- Then why do others need to know
- Endure. Enduring alone is possible and biblical in some senses
- Commit to God
- Look to Jesus as the example
- Your desire for help does not come before obedience
- FEAR GOD ... remember this is about God's Glory and your sanctification FIRST ... not about your happiness and your rights and what SHOULD BE

ENDNOTES:

THERE ARE ACTIONS WE ARE TOLD TO TAKE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

- LEGAL ACTIONS FOR PROTECTION – God has ordained government to protect. It is fully biblical to use the law for physical protection

^{ESV} **1 Peter 2:13** Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

- CONFRONTING SIN – we are not called to overlook all sin. Ultimately it is an option in some cases, but the primary teaching is to confront sin and seek repentance of believers

^{ESV} **Galatians 6:1** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

^{ESV} **Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (Mat 18:15 ESV)

- CHURCH DISCIPLINE – this is part of the confrontation process, but is also the beginning of the separating from sin process if not successful

^{ESV} **1 Timothy 5:20** As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.
(1Ti 5:20 ESV)

(Mat 18:15-17 ESV)¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

- SEPERATION FROM UNGODLINESS – though we are not allowed to be spiteful, unforgiving, vengeful, or angry ... NEITHER are we demanded by scripture to embrace and involve our daily lives with those who are ungodly and enemies.

a. UNBELIEVERS

2 Timothy 3:1

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

- ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
- ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,
- ⁷ always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

b. BELIEVERS

ESV **1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." (1Co 15:33 ESV)

ESV **Romans 16:17** I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, (Rom 16:17 ESV)

ESV **Titus 3:10** As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (Tit 3:10 ESV)

NLT **2 Timothy 3:5** They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

ESV **2 Timothy 3:5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

ESV **Matthew 18:15** "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Mat 18:15 ESV)

ESV **1 Corinthians 5:11** But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. (1Co 5:11 ESV)

ESV **2 Thessalonians 3:14** If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother. (2Th 3:14 ESV)

NAS **2 Thessalonians 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. (2Th 3:6 NAS)

REMINDER: BIBLICAL RELATIONSHIPS ... "ONE ANOTHERING"

1. LOVE one another

John 13:34 / John 13:35 / John 15:12 / John 15:17 / Romans 12:10 / Romans 13:8 / 1 Pet. 4:8 / 1 Corinthians 12:25 / 1 Thessalonians 3:12 / 1 Thessalonians 4:9 / 1 Peter 1:22 / 1 Peter 4:8. / 1 John 3:11 / 1 John 3:23 / 1 John 4:7 / 1 John 4:11 / 1 John 4:12

2. Act LOVINGLY / SACRIFICIALLY towards one another

Romans 14:15 / 1 Corinthians 8:13 / 1 Corinthians 12:25 / Ephesians 4:32 / 1 Peter 4:9

3. HONOR one another

Romans 12:10 / Philippians 2:3 / 1 Peter 4:9 / 1 Peter 5:5

4. FORGIVE one another

Ephesians 4:32 / Colossians 3:13 / 1 Thessalonians 5:15 / James 4:11 / James 5:9 / James 5:16 / 1 Peter 4:8

5. Don't CONDEMN / LOOK DOWN ON one another

Romans 14:10 / Romans 14:13 / James 4:11

6. Work for UNITY with one another

1 Peter 3:8 / 1 Corinthians 12:25 / Romans 12:16 / Romans 14:19 / Romans 15:5 / 1 Corinthians 12:25 / Mark 9:50 / 1 Thessalonians 5:15 / James 5:9 / James 5:16

7. Embrace / ACCEPT one another

Romans 15:7 / Romans 12:16 / Romans 14:13 / Romans 15:7

8. Be PATIENT with one another

Romans 14:13 / Ephesians 4:2 / Colossians 3:13 / 1 Thessalonians 5:15 / James 4:11 / 1 Peter 5:5

9. SERVE one another

Galatians 5:13 / Galatians 6:2 / 1 Peter 4:9 / 1 Peter 5:5 / 1 Peter 5:5