

Sunday morning, August 30, 2020
How to Keep Our Tongues from Slander
Jas. 4:11, 12; Ps. 15; Exo. 20:16; Deut. 5:20

- I. Why We Are Not to Slander—the Reason Jas. 4:11, 12
 - A. To Speak Evil of Another Is to Despise the Law 4:11b
Jas. 3:9; Lev. 19:16, 17; Deut. 22:13–18, 25f; Lev. 19:11–13

 - B. To Speak Evil of Another Is to Despise the Lawgiver, the Lord Jas. 4:12
Jas. 2:8; 1:25

- II. How Not to Slander—the Answer
 - A. Question #1: Is it the Truth? Ps. 15:2; WLC 144

 - B. Question #2: Is it Harmful? Ps. 15:3; Deut. 5:20; Eph. 4:29

 - C. Question #3: Is the One I Talk to the Person to Solve the Problem?
 - 1. Does the One I Talk to Need to Know?
1 Thess. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:15

 - 2. Does the One I Talk the One to Solve the Problem? 1 Tim. 5:19

 - D. Question #4 Would I Say this If That Person Were Present?
Prov. 17:4; Prov. 26:20; Ps. 101:5; WLC 145

** as the listener ask yourself question #1 is it true?*

** as the listener ask yourself question #2 is this harmful?*

** as the listener ask yourself question #3 am I being asked to solve this problem?*

** as the listener ask yourself question #4 to ask self and speaker: would this be said if that person were present?*

QUOTES:

“Whoever bears false witness against his neighbor kills him: in essence he robs him and is guilty of whatever evil proceeds from his lie.” John Calvin

“The scope of the sins forbidden in the 9THC is whatever is contrary to the truth and to the *good name* of any person.” . . . whatever interferes with the preservation of the good name of another.” Vos

“We must not speak evil things of others, though they be true, unless there be some necessary occasion for it; much less must we report evil things when they are false.” Matthew Henry

*“My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice.
I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.
I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age.
I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no face.
To track me down is impossible. The harder you try the more elusive I become.
I am nobody’s friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.
I topple governments, wreck marriages, and I ruin careers—cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion.
I spawn suspicion and generate grief. I make innocent people cry in their pillows.
Even my name hisses . . .
I make headlines and headaches.
Before you repeat a story, ask yourself, Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not—shut up!*

The six points of Methodism, drawn up by John Wesley:

1. That we will not listen to, or willingly enquire after, any ill concerning each other.
2. That if we do hear any ill of each other we will not be forward to believe it.
3. That as soon as possible we will communicate what we hear, by speaking or writing to the person concerned.
4. That till we have done this, we will not write or speak a syllable of it to any person whatsoever.
5. That neither will we mention it, after we have done this, to any person whatsoever.
6. That we will not make any exception to these rules, unless we think ourselves absolutely obligated in conscience to do so.

“Some people will believe anything if it is whispered to them.” Pierre de Marivaux

“The tongue inflicts greater wounds than the sword.” Augustine