

## Shut your mouth - Friday, October 03, 2014



**Shut your mouth!!!!** Shut your mouth if you can't verify your accusation against another. If you don't keep your lips from flapping then you are breaking a biblical commandment.

To be scripturally sound an accusation, especially against a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, must be from 2 or 3 eye witnesses that can be cross examined:

RSV 1 Timothy 5:19 **Never admit any charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.**

RSV 2 Corinthians 13:1 **THIS IS** the third time I am coming to you. **Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.**

KJV Matthew 18:16 **But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.**

That may be waived if direct a statement is made in view of all the hearers:

RSV Matthew 26:63-65

63 But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

64 Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

65 Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. **Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard** his blasphemy.

An eye witnesses must be present to be able to be cross examined (no hearsay evidence is allowed). Everyone is allowed to be able to have their day in court, to confront the other accuser's statement:

RSV Acts 23:35 he said, **"I will hear you when your accusers arrive."** And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

RSV Proverbs 18:17 **He who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.**

LVB John 7:51 **"Is it legal to convict a man before he is even tried?"** he asked

False witness' are condemned in the bible. A false witness is one that doesn't have any first hand evidence or creates false evidence to tear down/destroy a person:

RSV Proverbs 6:19 **a false witness who breathes out lies,** and a man who sows discord among brothers.

RSV Proverbs 19:5 **A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who utters lies will not escape.**

RSV Proverbs 25:18 **A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.**

RSV Mark 10:19 You know the commandments: 'Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, **Do not bear false witness,** Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'

Jesus has a stern judgment against false witnesses, ones that accuse a person either out of ignorance or for their gain:

RSV Deuteronomy 19:16-19

16 **If a malicious witness rises against any man to accuse him of wrongdoing,**

17 then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days;

18 **the judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely,**

19 then **you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother;** so you shall purge the evil from the midst of you.

Coming against a preacher has even more dire consequences as God will judge harshly those accusers :

KJV 2 Kings 2:23-24

23 And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.

24 **And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.**

All gossipers would have no willing ears if Christians would adopt this biblical principle. Christians should demand that the gossipers bring 2 or 3 witnesses if they want to about others.

If one has an issue with a fellow Christian then Mt18:15-17 states that YOU are to resolve that issue in front of HIM/HER. If they won't listen then you bring 2 or 3 witnesses. If they won't listen then you have the church body as witnesses. If they won't listen to the church then you cast them out of the body..

KJV Matthew 18:15-17

15 Moreover **if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone:** if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

16 But if he will not hear thee, then **take with thee one or two more,** that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

17 **And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church:** but **if he neglect to hear the church,** let him be unto thee as an **heathen man and a publican.**

Make all attempts to resolve the matter with someone rather than becoming gossipers behind their backs.