

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST THE

Defilement

OF LISTENING TO AN EVIL REPORT

THE PROBLEM:

- What causes conflicts in families, churches or organizations to flare out of control and split the entire group?
- What causes close friendships to be broken when neither party offended the other?
- Why are attempts to restore a fallen Christian brother or sister often met with defeat?

A MAJOR CAUSE: WRONG RESPONSES TO AN EVIL REPORT

DEFINITION:

An evil report involves distortion of facts, incomplete facts or false information. It is given with wrong motivations and causes the hearer to come to inaccurate conclusions and to respond with unscriptural "solutions".

Evil reports are so destructive that they can even destroy long-lasting, close friendships: "A whisperer separateth chief friends" (Proverbs 16:28).

NOTE:

Wrong doing should never be covered over. It must be brought to the attention of those who are responsible and dealt with in a Scriptural manner. This necessary process will be damaged by the defilement of an evil report.

STAGES OF DEFILEMENT:

In the medical world, there are stages in the development of a disease. In the same way, there are stages of destruction to a spiritually healthy person:

1. **IGNORANCE** of "preventive" measures to avoid contamination;
2. **EXPOSURE** to one who is already "infected";
3. **CONTAMINATION** (defilement) by allowing the "germs" to enter our system;
4. **INFECTION** as the "germs" overcome our normal defenses;
5. **DISEASE** when the infection destroys vital life-supporting functions.