

# Verbal Vandalism

Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 7:1

## Introduction:

- A. What would you think if:
  - 1. A brother was seen pouring water into a bottle of precious ointment belonging to another.
  - 2. A brother was seen spraying painting graffiti on a beautiful home of another.
  - 3. A sister was seen keying the side of a new car just bought by a brother?
- B. Brethren sometimes deface or destroy something more precious – one's good name.

## Discussion:

### I. Ways to Vandalize One's Good Name

- A. Slander
  - 1. Old Testament condemnation (Ex. 23:1; Prov. 10:18; Jer. 6:28)
  - 2. New Testament condemnation (Rom. 1:29; 2 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 3:11)
- B. Talebearing/Gossip.
  - 1. Proverbs and gossip/talebearing (11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 26:20)
  - 2. This sin often grows out of idleness (1 Tim. 5:11)
- C. Bad excuses for repeating gossip or slander
  - 1. "But, his own brother told me" (Psa. 5:12)
  - 2. "But, good brethren told me" (Jer. 9:4)

### II. God's Protection Against Verbal Vandalism.

- A. Under the Old Testament
  - 1. Required sufficient witnesses (Deut. 17:2-7; cf. Heb. 10:28)
  - 2. False witnesses were severely punished (Deut. 19:15-21)
- B. Under the New Testament (1 Tim. 5:19; Matt. 7:1-5).

### III. Our Own Protection Against Verbal Vandalism

- A. Refuse to be a party to it. (Prov. 17:4; 25:23)
- B. Live so as to render gossip and slander ineffective (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:16)
- C. Be sure that any suffering is not justified. (1 Pet. 4:15-16)

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us learn to:
  - 1. Oppose this evil, even in the closest of friends.
  - 2. Learn to control our own tongues.
  - 3. Not be hasty or overly harsh in judgment (Ill. Man with wheel barrow)
  - 4. Recognize real proof over mere hear say.
  - 5. Seek to restore in the spirit of meekness (Gal. 6:1)
- B. If you are a vandal, repent of it?
- C. If you have been vandalized, try to meekly bring gossips to repentance.