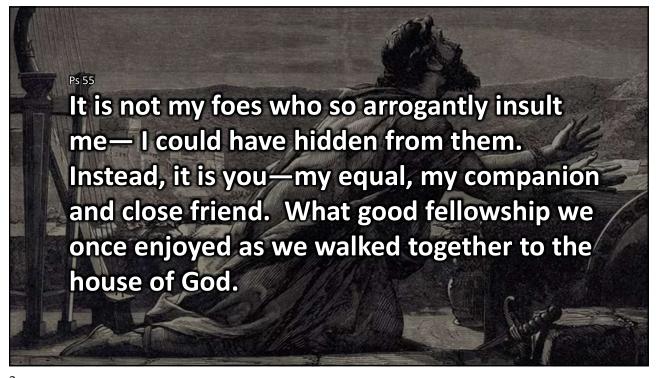
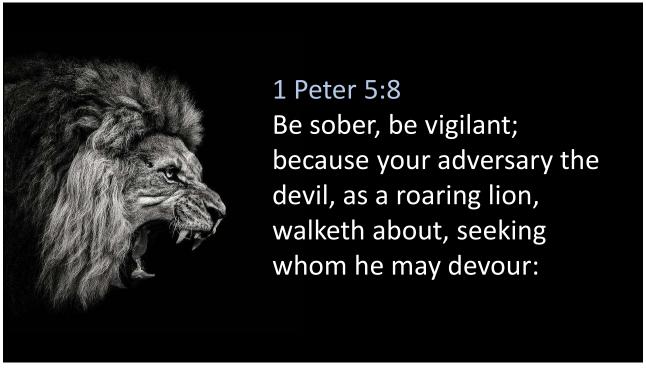


(v. 20) Jerusalem's walls are patrolled day and night against invaders, but the real danger is wickedness within the city. Everything is falling apart; threats and cheating are rampant in the streets. It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that.





Δ











- 1. We aren't changing the doctrine and mission and teaching of our church. Our name simply better reflects who we are.
- 2. We have a lot of ministries in our church. Share and play well together.
- 3. We have a diverse congregation.







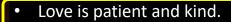


Phil 4:4
Rejoice in the Lord
always.
Again I say, rejoice!

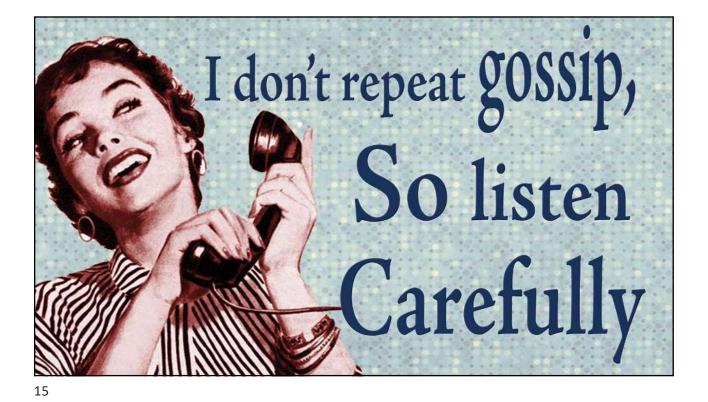


13

2. Demonstrate AGAPE



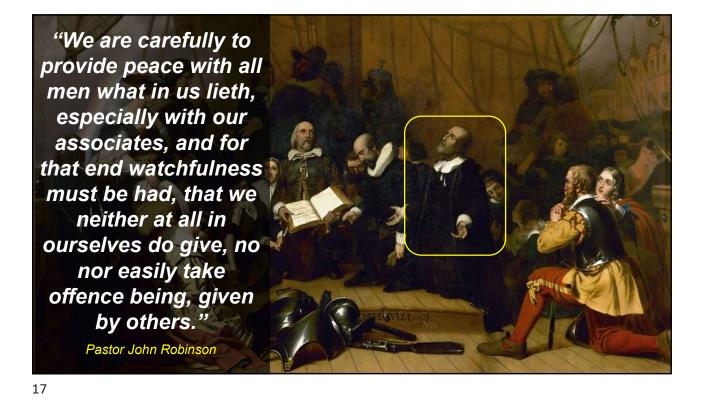
- Love is not jealous, boastful or proud.
- Love does not misbehave.
- Love is not self seeking.
- Love is not easily angered.
- Love keeps no record of being wronged.
- Love does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.
- Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.



1 REALIZE YOUR FEAR IS IN YOUR HEAD 4. Take the 2 START WITH PEOPLE YOU KNOW (Reach out to acquaintances; Join existing cliques; Meet friends friends; Accept social invitations) **3** GET YOURSELF OUT THERE (Join meet-up groups; Attend courses; Volunteer; Go to parties) initiative and 4 TAKE THE FIRST STEP (Say hello - It's about being sociable!) (Don't judge. On an emotional level, open your heart.) Make Friends. **6** GET TO KNOW THE PERSON (What does he/she do? What are his/her values? What are his/her passions? Goals? Dreams? What motivates/drives him/her?) 7 CONNECT WITH GENUINITY 8 BE YOURSELF (Don't change yourself for anyone else) **BE THERE FOR THEM**

(That's what friendships are about!)

10 MAKE THE EFFORT TO STAY IN TOUCH



✓ Don't be guilty of offending someone intentionally.

✓ Don't be guilty of being thin skinned – looking for a reason to be offended.





Col 3:12-15

PHILIPPI

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

21

1 Peter 3:8-9

Finally, be ye all of one mind (this is what Unity within the body means! And is defined in the following traits), having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

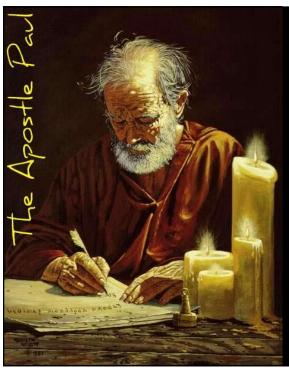


Rom 14:13-15

...no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

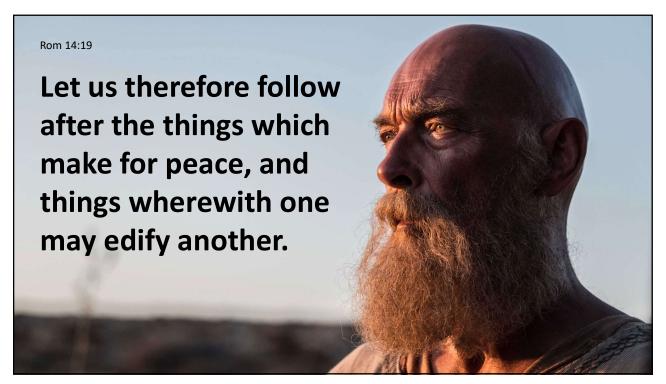
I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.



1 Cor 10:31-32

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:



1. Sometimes, we may offend somebody by standing for truth.

27

Matt 15:12-14

Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?"

But He answered and said... "Let them alone.
They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."





Matt 5:7

Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

31

Matt 7:13-14

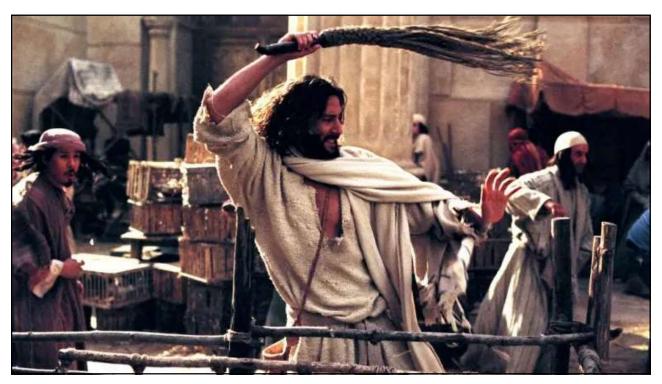
Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matt 7:22-23

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

33



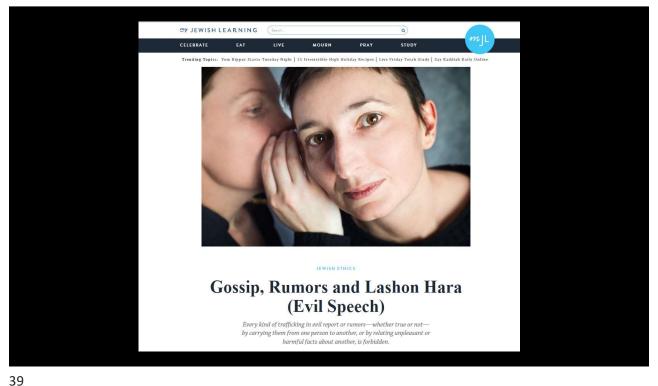


2. Most of the time, between believers, offence is an accident.

For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

Matt 18:15-17

"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.





Different forms of evil speech according to Jewish tradition:

- "To put out a bad name" to slander or lie about someone.
- "An evil tongue" repeating something that may be true, but for the purpose of tearing the person down or embarrassing them.
 - An evil tongue can even occur without saying a word it could be a raised eyebrow or a roll of the eyes or a smirk conveying the message about a person.
- "Intentional humiliation" A spouse ridiculing or correcting the other in the presence of others. A teacher asking a child a question, knowing the child doesn't know the answer.

41

Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Gal 6:1-2 Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of humility, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won't be tempted too.

James 3:6-8,10

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison...Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.



Rabbis say that a gossip murders three people.

aish:

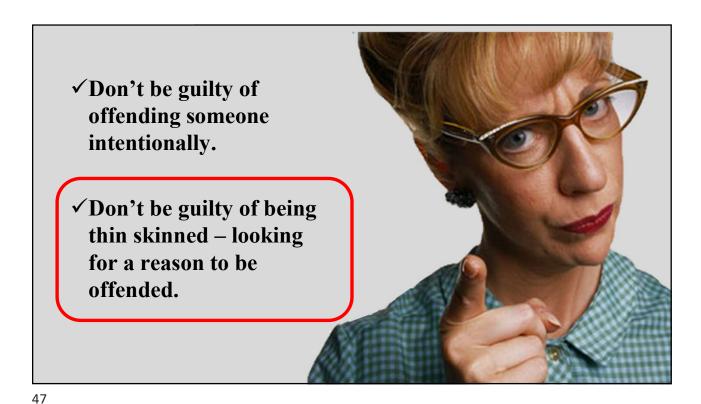
- 1.The object of the gossip is one victim.
- 2.The listener is also a victim as their relationship with the one gossiped about is negatively affected.
- 3.The third victim is the speaker as they destroy their own reputations as people soon realize they cannot be trusted.

45

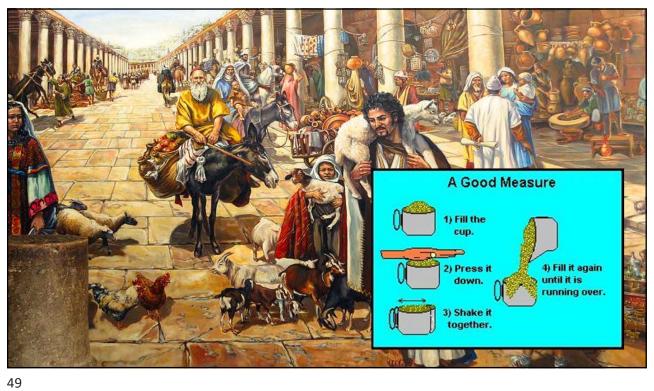
JAMES 3:10

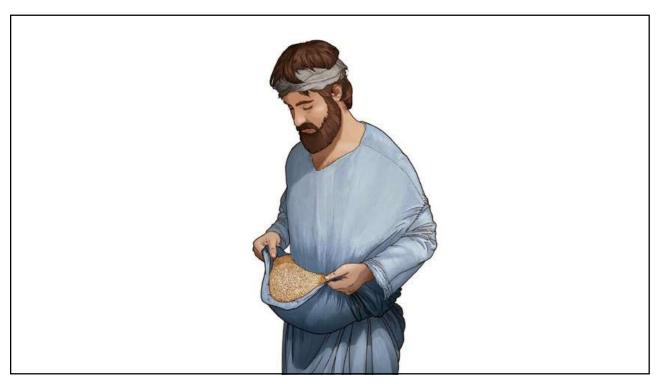
"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

King James Version (KJV)



Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.





Rabbi Yehoshua ben Perachia (120BC) Mishna -

"Judge each person with the scales weighed in their favor."

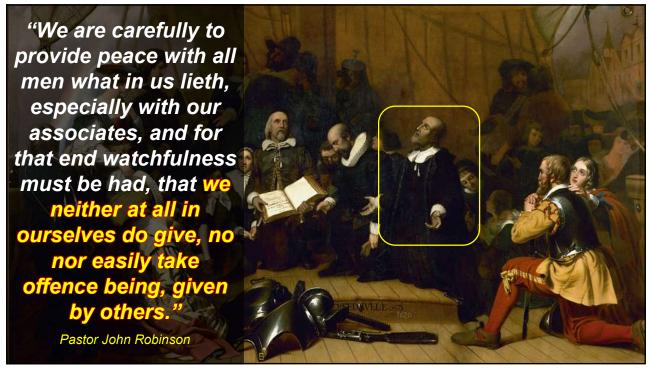
Walking in the dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish words of Jesus can Change your Life, Lois Tverberg, Chapter 8, Taking my Thumb off the Scale

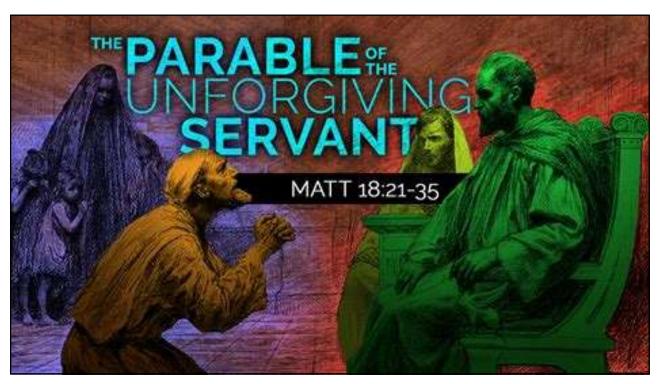
51

✓Don't be guilty of offending someone intentionally.

✓ Don't be guilty of being thin skinned – looking for a reason to be offended.









Acts 15:36-40

And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. Acts 15:36-40

And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

57

Acts 15:36-40

And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Thoughts in passing:

- The great men and women in the Bible were just human beings trying to serve God. They had the same fears, biases and weaknesses that we all do.
- Satan ALWAYS tries to divide and destroy.
- God used this as a Romans 8:28 moment and DOUBLED His missionary effort.