

## Use of Our Tongue – Gossip and Slander

*In the last days, men will be.... malicious gossips... 2 Tim. 3:3*

- The word devil in the Greek is *diablos* which also translates to malicious gossips (derived from slanderous, accusing falsely)
  - 2 Tim. 3:3 – in the *last days* there will be malicious gossips (those who personify the devil in this area)
    - Jude 1:19 – again in the *last days* those who cause divisions
  - Subjection to authorities and not maligning (Titus 2:15-3:2)
  - Church
    - 3 John 1:9-10: An example from Apostle John handling the false accusations in the context of the church
    - Other Common Traits:
      - Self-seeking and gain (Acts 20: 30, Jude 1:16)
      - Perverse and arrogant in speech (3 John 1:10, Jude 1:16)
      - Desire to be prominent and draw to others themselves (Acts 20:30, 3 John 1:9)
- Jesus's example in the sharing in sensitive topics
  - Judas's betrayal
    - Jesus shared that Judas would be the one that would betray (John 13:26)
    - Don't see that He treated Judas differently in the time before that
    - Peter (Acts 1:16-20, 25)
      - Gave clarity on the situation with Judas, there is a place in the church for those in authority to share about sensitive situations
  - The manner of death of John the apostle (John 21:21)
    - Jesus told Peter not to be curious about that matter (John 21:22)
    - It supposed that John would not die (John 21:23)
- Dealing with Genuine Situations
  - Timothy was charged with teach how one should conduct themselves in the household of God. (1 Tim. 3:15) [Malicious Gossip, Fables, Church discipline]
  - How the apostles dealt with early areas of disagreement? (Acts 15: 1, 2)
  - *Balance*: We do have a genuine concern for others in the body of Christ (without gossip and slander)? (Php. 2:4)