

How to Detect an Evil Report

Needless to say, all staff members are expected to be examples in their total avoidance of any form of gossip or evil report, especially concerning co-workers or any church member. Please note the following suggestions on "How to Detect an Evil Report."

Five questions to ask before listening to a carrier:

- A. "What is your reason for telling me?" Widening the circle of gossip only compounds the problem.
- B. "Where did you get your information?" Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure signal of an evil report.
- C. "Have you gone to those directly involved?" Spirituality is not measured by how well we expose an offender, but by how effectively we restore an offender (Galatians 6:1).
- D. "Have you personally checked out all the facts?" Even "facts" become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives.
- E. "Can I quote you if I check this out?" Those who give evil reports often claim that they are "misquoted." This is because their words and overriding impressions are reported.

Hebrews 12:15 (TLB) Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.

Bill Gothard. *Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts*. Used with permission
<http://billgothard.com>