

BAD REPORTS

QUESTIONS BEFORE LISTENING TO A BAD REPORT:

If you cannot get these five questions answered correctly, you cannot listen to the report; or if you do, you will be defiled.

1. What is your reason in telling me?
2. Where did the report come from?
3. Have you gone to those directly involved?
4. Do you have all the facts?
5. Can I use your name?

THINGS THAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF YOU LISTEN TO A REPORT:

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| 1. I may believe the bad report. | 6. I may back away from involved parties. |
| 2. I may form negative opinions. | 7. I may repeat the report. |
| 3. I may begin to focus on negative aspects. | 8. I may recruit others to my side. |
| 4. I may begin to seek out supporting evidence. | 9. I may become bitter. |
| 5. I may begin to judge motives based on the report. | 10. I may search out evil reports. |
| | 11. I may begin to believe any malicious activity is for God's will. |

IF YOU HAVE LISTENED TO A BAD REPORT:

1. Ask for forgiveness from God and commit to do His will.
2. Contact the one who gave the evil report and inform him/her of your concern about the report.
3. Ask the (5) questions.
4. Contact the one that the report is about.
5. Contact the spiritually responsible person for the report source.
6. Apply Titus 3.

Remind your people to obey the government and its officers, and always to be obedient and ready for any honest work. They must not speak evil of anyone, nor quarrel, but be gentle and truly courteous to all.

Once we too were foolish and disobedient; we were misled by others and became slaves to many evil pleasures and wicked desires. Our lives were full of resentment and envy. We hated others and they hated us.

But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, then He saved us--not because we were good enough to be saved, but because of His kindness had pity—by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit whom He poured out upon us with wonderful fullness--and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did, so that He could declare us good in God's eyes--all because of His great kindness; and now we can share in the wealth of the eternal life He gives us, and we are eagerly looking forward to receiving it. These things I have told you are all true. Insist on them so that Christians will be careful to do good deeds all the time, for this is not only right, but it brings results.

Don't get involved in arguing over unanswerable questions and controversial theological ideas; keep out of arguments and quarrels about obedience to Jewish laws, for this kind of thing isn't worthwhile; it only does harm. If anyone is causing divisions among you, he should be given a first and second warning. After that have nothing more to do with him, for such a person has a wrong sense of values. He is sinning, and he knows it.

Titus 3, The Living Bible