

A Prescription for Slander

By Ronald L. Dart

Tale-bearing is one of the oldest problems ever to afflict the church. It was there when the church began and when I say “when the church began” I mean the Old Testament church. Take a look at this passage in Leviticus: “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:16). So tale-bearing was a sin from day one— right from the very beginning.

It is absolutely impossible to overstate the hurt that has been experienced, the harm caused, and the damage done by tale-bearing to the church and to people in the church. It is without a doubt the primary cause of the break up of churches, the separation of friends, and the destruction of reputations and relationships.

I have been somewhat ineffective in the past thirty years when preaching at tale-bearers so I am not going to rail much against them here. Rather, I’m going to deal with how to protect yourself and the church from the ravages of tale-bearing.

A nice place to start is to lay out the principles of protection against tale-bearing that is in the Law— what the Law says and what the Law reveals.

Go back to Leviticus: “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD” (Leviticus 19:16-18).

There are four important points to be learned from these verses. Number one is that tale-bearing is a sin. It is a sin and in addition to that it is also important to know that it is possible for you to inadvertently participate in the sin of the tale-bearer. How do you do

that? There are a lot of ways you can go about it; for example, if someone is there telling you a story about “Mr X,” and you add something about “Mr X” that the tale-bearer doesn’t know—you give greater credibility to the story. You can also

participate in this sin by supporting the story by saying, “I agree. I think you’re right.” Another way is to merely acquiesce to the story. That is, to fail to deny the allegation, or to take exception to it. By listening to a tale-bearer you can be sure that you can become a part of the story.

The second thing to learn from this passage of Scripture is that hatred is a sin. Notice in verse 17, “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.” Or, in the margins, it says that you bear

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You’ve Asked . . .

How are CEM and the *Born to Win* radio program supported? CEM/*Born to Win* is a listener and reader supported ministry. All of our efforts are made possible by donations from listeners and supporters such as you. Without your desire to help CEM in its mission to share God’s truth we couldn’t make it. CEM continues to need your faithful prayers and support. We thank God for you and we pray God’s blessings on you.

CEM Update

By the CEM Staff and Board

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Allie Dart. She died on August 9th, 2017 at The Hospice of East Texas, HomePlace. Allie died peacefully in her sleep while listening to Ron's message *A Good Marriage*.

Her greatest wish was for the work—which she and Ron cared so much about—including Ron's sermons, books, YEA, and the *Born to Win* radio program, to go forward in love, peace, and unity under Jesus Christ.

We assure you that Christian Educational Ministries continues on the path laid out by Ron and Allie. We are

on the radio each day. We continue to provide Ronald L. Dart's timeless broadcasts, sermons, books, booklets, and articles through radio and social media to all who ask each day. We continue to prepare for the 2017 Feast sites at Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky, and the Western Caribbean cruise out of Galveston, Texas. We continue to share *Born to Win* on our website, www.borntowin.net, and on our social media outlets to great effect. The "bottom line" is that we continue to do this work—their work—each day.

Eulogy for Allie Dart

By Richard Glasgow

Several months ago, Allie told me she knew she was not an easy person to love. Those who were close to her, or worked with her, may have known that to be true on occasion; but consider this: Allie was single-minded and focused. She never swerved or got side-tracked from what drove her. She was a DRIVEN *visionary*, and she was on a *mission!*

She was a DRIVER, after all! In case you didn't know, "Driver" was Allie's maiden name: *Allie Driver*. Could she have had a more appropriate name? So what drove Allie? What was it that motivated her? What was her mission?

Well, God works in mysterious ways. In the autumn of 1949, Allie Driver and Ron Dart were sophomores in high school in Houston, Texas, and their Algebra teacher arranged all the seating in alphabetical order. Because of the spelling of their last names, they were seated next to each other. They became friends, then more than friends, and after three years of dating, they were madly in love with each other. So they got married on February 21, 1953. They *stayed* madly in love with each other and were each other's very best friends until the end—63 years later.

Ron was destined to be in the ministry. He was in the Navy and afterward attended Hardin-Simmons University. Then they moved to California so Ron could attend Ambassador College. Ron quickly rose in the ministerial ranks in the Worldwide Church of God. Added responsibilities in the work took them to Bricket Wood, England, where Ron taught and then served as the Dean of Students at Ambassador College.

While serving in the international ministry, they made at least two trips around the world, visiting church offices and conducting church services wherever they went.

Ron was always the one in the public eye, but it was Allie who fully supported him in his responsibilities and was continually behind him. They did not believe it was just Ron's ministry; it was THEIR ministry for God. In every phase of their ministry, Allie was resolute, single-minded, and focused on getting the Gospel out to the world. This was her mission and her undying passion. She knew what she wanted, and she was undaunted by anything that got in the way of fulfilling the job they were called to do.

They began Christian Educational Ministries (CEM) in 1995, the *Born to Win* radio program went on the air in January 1996 and they continued to grow. While Ron recorded daily radio programs, weekly sermons, and Weekend Bible Studies, over the last several years Allie was Managing Editor for CEM's numerous publications, the Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) program, and the CD distribution.

In many respects, Allie was a good example of a Proverbs 31 woman—the woman who, among other things, bought a field and sold her crops to bring in extra money for her family? Over the years, Allie performed various jobs to help support their ministry, and for 16 years she was a top producer for the real estate company she worked for in Tyler. So, she did not just buy a field, she bought *many* "fields," and turned them into rental

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The Feast is Upon Us

Updated from a letter written by Ronald L. Dart

Update: By the time you get this newsletter, many will be finalizing their plans for the 2017 Feast of Tabernacles and a few will have already started on their journey. Some will be headed for Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky, some to Galveston for the CEM cruise, and many to other sites around the world. We want you all to know that we will be thinking of you, and praying for you, as you travel and meet together to worship the Father at his “appointed time.”



From Ron’s Letter: By the sheerest of chance, I stumbled onto a message given in 1995 at the Feast of Tabernacles in Wagoner, Oklahoma. I didn’t even know I had the sermon. It had been gathering dust in one of my desk drawers for three years or so. This is the notorious sermon in which I challenged our former interpretation of the Feast by saying, point blank: “The Feast of Tabernacles does not picture the Millennium.”

That was probably an overstatement, because I have since realized, in more depth, that the festivals of the Bible are much richer in meaning than we have ever imagined. I have elsewhere pointed out that there are at least five layers of meaning in the festivals, depending on how you explain them:

1. The Jewish historical meaning that references the Exodus, the wilderness wandering, and the giving of the Law.
2. The eschatological meaning that points to prophecy and the end times.
3. The Christological meaning picturing Christ and his ministry.

4. The soteriological meaning which refers to the plan of salvation.
5. The temporal meaning of how they apply to our lives today.

Since most of us speak on the festivals in their seasons, we have long developed different aspects of these meanings in the form of metaphors, allegories, comparisons and other rhetorical forms. But for a very long time we advanced a very narrow range of official “meanings” for the festivals, meanings that limited our vision of what God has done—and is doing—with man. I had long known that these days are rich in meaning, but it has only been in recent years that I have realized how rich they really are, and how profoundly they reflect New Covenant Christianity.

Most Christian churches dismiss the festivals as “Jewish,” as being only historical in meaning and only applying to Israel. Their arguments, and our arguments in reply, have been limited to proof-texts about the supposed abolition of part or all of the Law of God. But when you suddenly come face-to-face with Christ in each and every one of the festivals, the ground of the entire argument changes.

I shocked some friends when I told them I had lost interest in the old “Law versus grace” arguments. That was where they thought the ground of the discussion properly lay. But, while I don’t disagree with the old arguments, I have realized that the proper approach to a dialogue with other faiths on the festivals lies in their Christian symbolism. And if these churches would all observe these days, they would understand Jesus, and his work, far better than they do now.

I think you will find this sermon revealing, and I want you to have a CD of it to listen to and to share with others. It has an in-depth discussion of the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles, and opens up several new areas of understanding.

I would like very much for you to have a copy of this message titled, *A Fresh Look at Tabernacles*. To receive a free copy of the sermon, just check the box on the enclosed order form and return it in the envelope provided, call us at 1-888-BIBLE-44, or email us at adm@borntowin.net. May God richly bless you in this festival season.

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not sin for him. In other words, if the guy is wrong go to him and tell him. That's simple, but it says categorically you shall not hate your brother. Therefore, if you hate your brother, you have broken a Law that says, "Thou shalt not."

Who do you hate? Is there somebody out there who has hurt you, damaged your reputation, interfered with relationships, and so forth? Would you secretly feel satisfaction if they were hurt? It's possible that the motivation for tale-bearing can be a secret hatred for the person that you're bearing tales about.

The third thing to learn from this is that the bearing of a grudge is sin. Verse 18: "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." A grudge is a feeling of resentment, or of ill will, the feeling of wanting to get back at someone, not really being satisfied until justice is done where this person is concerned.

Don't bear a grudge. Isn't it possible that people who come around tale-bearing are doing so because they bear a grudge against the person they're talking about? I would say there is a high level of probability that it is so. It's a legitimate question for you to ask.

The fourth thing to gain from this is that, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Let me ask you, is it possible for you to fulfill this commandment while you are bearing a tale? Is it possible that the person who is bearing bad news to you, about somebody you know and respect, is doing it because they love that person? Are they telling you because they love you so much? These questions are really absurd aren't they? We know better.

This passage in Leviticus is a part of what the Bible calls the Holiness Code. Earlier in Leviticus 19:2: "Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy." God says you will be holy as he is holy, then he begins to lay out certain Laws. Many of these Laws have to do with the way we relate to one another—with the way we actually get along with other human beings. I would have to conclude then that you can't be considered holy by God if you can't get along with, and relate to your

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Ashamed?

By Mardy Cobb

"Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly" (Psalms 6:10 NIV). David knew the pain that comes from being mistreated by others. He hated the shame, and we are told in Hebrews that Jesus hated the shame as well.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

In order to make this world right it is not enough that we all just have one big group hug. That won't do it. Hearts must turn. Justice and mercy must be dealt out by a just, righteous, wise judge. The only judge that can be trusted for this ultimate judgment is God himself.

Many who have lived will never be able to repent unless they are judged and made ashamed for their sin by God himself. Jesus made some of his enemies ashamed even while he walked on earth. "And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed. . ." (Luke 13:17).

Remember that David was "a man after My own heart" (Acts 13:22). God is interested in those who belong to him. He is not without compassion for the righteous, and he is not without aggression for the wicked. No matter what it may seem like at the moment, those who do evil, especially to God's children, will be made greatly ashamed in the end.

Therefore, if we suffer from being mistreated, or made ashamed in this world, we have the assurance of our just, righteous, loving, and all powerful King that every injustice will be addressed, and all the suffering of the children of God will greatly rewarded. May he come soon.

Born to Win

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That the man of God may be proficient and equipped for every good work.

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neighbor, or your brother in the church, or whoever is there.

In the 12th chapter of Hebrews there is a striking little statement about this. Remember that this statement in Leviticus is a part of a code that says, “Be you holy even as I am holy,” and one of the ways you do it is that you don’t go up and down as a tale-bearer among your people. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

I guess people have their own definitions of what holiness means, but when you go back and read through the Old Testament I think we can conclude we’re down to the brass tacks of what he’s talking about. He says “follow holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.” So, if you want to see God, you’re going to have to make certain changes in the way you deal with your fellow man.

Several times over the years, I have seen a strange phenomenon that I, to this day, have difficulty understanding. The phenomenon is this: a church or a fellowship group that is divided into at least two parts. The two parts are angry at one another and suspicious of one another. Both groups are composed of good-hearted, well-meaning people. People who love God, believe in God, obey God’s Law, keep the Feasts, keep the Sabbath day, and as far as their lifestyles are concerned, the groups are indiscernible from one another. And yet, they have come to the place where they are suspicious of one another, and badly divided, and oftentimes very angry with one another.

How does that happen? I think the answer is found in a remarkable passage in the Book of Proverbs. It’s a passage in Proverbs 26, but I’ll begin in verse 20. “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross. He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart. Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation. Whoso diggeth a pit

shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin” (Proverbs 26:20-28).

Verse 20: “Where no wood is, there the fire goes out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.” The principle I draw therefore is when reasonable men are being unreasonable you can be certain that there is a tale-bearer in the woodpile. If there were not, the whole thing would fizzle out. Now, the temptation is to go on a search-and-destroy mission to find this tale-bearer who is causing all the trouble in the church.

Jesus would say to you, “No.” “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matthew 13:24-30).

And the truth is we don’t need to be out there trying to eliminate tale-bearers for they are people who are hurting, they are people who are confused and, I’ll tell you, sometimes they’re us. So let’s not get too quick to go jerking around roots of plants trying to do these things. The tale-bearer has problems and needs help, and our one objective should be to neutralize the tale-bearer, not to eliminate them.

The most important thing that a tale-bearer has—the thing that makes it possible to create the damage that they ultimately do—I will call the tale-bearer’s cloak. To understand the tale-bearer’s cloak, and the rest of the story, call us at 1-888-BIBLE-44, email us at adm@borntowin.net, or return the enclosed order form, and ask for your copy of *A Prescription for Slander*.

*A Eulogy for Allie Dart
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properties to provide a comfortable retirement income. They never did retire—but they also did not have to depend on the CEM ministry as their principle means of support.

After Ron's accident in 2010, Allie became the acting CEO for Christian Educational Ministries. She stated this: "For me, this is far more than just a job. I feel very strongly that the work I do for CEM is God's work and must be treated as such. I stand in awe of having this responsibility."

Allie was not just a Christian soldier, as we are all instructed to be; she was a Christian *warrior*, constantly and tirelessly taking on whatever physical or spiritual battles came her way.

This past year was a rough one for Allie. Ron died in January of 2016, after a lengthy illness. During that time, Allie was Ron's primary caregiver. Then three short weeks later, Allie was diagnosed with cancer. After receiving treatments for several months, she seemed to be responding well. However, in March of this year, she was diagnosed with additional cancer: a tumor which necessitated a lengthy and complicated surgery in April. The day after the surgery, she had a stroke which left her left side paralyzed.

Over the next few months of therapy, she appeared to

be progressing well—especially for an 84-year-old. She regained the use of her left side and was once again walking with assistance and the aid of a walker. About three weeks before she died, she started getting weaker, so Cathy Gibbons took her to the oncologist. They did a CT scan and found her cancer had aggressively spread throughout her body. When Allie realized there was nothing more that could be done and she would be going to hospice, she said to Cathy in her no-nonsense way, "Well, then, let's get this show on the road."

If she could, Allie would want to thank everyone who helped and supported her through her ordeal. She would want to give special thanks to Cathy and Gary Gibbons, Linda Benton, Joshua Voyce, Kim Marsh, and so many other friends and associates who did what they could to attend to her needs. Allie would have been very happy, and deeply honored, that so many showed up at her funeral.

Allie Driver Dart was a remarkable lady and a real trooper through all this. She "fought the good fight" and is now peacefully awaiting Christ's return and the resurrection, when she can be reunited with the love of her life.

Allie Driver Dart will be greatly missed.

CEM Mission Statement

Christian Educational Ministries (CEM) was founded in November 1995 by Ron and Allie Dart as an independent, non-denominational ministry to serve the public and individual Christians of every kind through the ministry of Ronald L. Dart. Mr. Dart, an ordained minister and evangelist, has served God through hundreds of sermons, broadcasts, Bible Studies, and books—bringing clarity and simplicity to topics.

CEM promotes Ron Dart's radio ministry, *Born to Win*, which is heard from coast-to-coast. His clear, conversational, and inviting style can be heard the world over. The *Born to Win* website, www.borntowin.net, features more than 1000 of Mr. Dart's timeless sermons and studies at any one time.

Our mission is:

- First, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. (Matthew 28).

- Second, to teach the disciples of Jesus Christ so that they may be "proficient and equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17).
- Third, to teach and train this generation and the next with studies and programs focused on youth, through the Dart's special passion, Youth Educational Adventures (YEA). (Deuteronomy 11:19, Proverbs 22:6).
- Fourth, to bring God's people closer together, through cooperative efforts wherever they may be. (2 Corinthians 5:18).

To this end, we teach the Bible and its Truth, with a goal of helping people make their own lives work while they are a positive influence and blessing to those around them. Follow Mr. Dart and CEM at www.borntowin.net, on Facebook, YouTube, and other media.