

CrossWalk NOTES

God's Top Ten

Don't Destroy a Reputation

June 21, 2009 – Jeff Gunn

¹⁶"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16, NIV)

God wants every person to maintain their _____

before their wife, children, co-workers and neighbors.

¹A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

¹A good name is better than a good ointment. (Ecclesiastes 7:1, NIV)

**1. God wants me to understand the _____
of my neighbor's reputation.**

⁹With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor. (Proverbs 11:9, NIV)

²We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.⁵Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man,⁸but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:1-8, NIV)

Those who _____ the boat don't _____ the boat!

**2. God wants me to understand the power of my tongue to
_____ my neighbor's reputation.**

⁸"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."⁹ Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV)

Be _____ to those _____ present!

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV)

**3. God wants me to understand the strength of my tongue
to _____ my neighbor's reputation.**

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV)

²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. (1 Peter 2:23-24 NIV)

I can _____, or I can _____, but I

can't do _____ at the same time.

**4. God wants me to understand that his Son's kind words
are _____ to use with God and all mankind.**

My next steps in the "Cross-Walk":

- Ask God to forgive me for the sinful corruption that brings about my sinful destruction of the reputation of others with my tongue.
- Choose one person whose reputation I will defend this week.
- Meditate on and memorize Exodus 20:16.