



Lies, Slander, False witnesses, False Accusations

When one becomes a leader, one thing they get caught off guard with is slander and character assassination.

One thing is true about leaders. They are imperfect people. Because they are in a position of influence does not mean they will do all things well. Actually, their mistakes and faults are greatly amplified because of the spotlight.

Some people are going to say bad things about you—do not be surprised. But many people are going to say good things about you. You will have to choose whom you want to focus on. I recommend the latter.

One strategy that the enemy uses to take leaders out is discrediting them through lies, slander, and character assassination. These are some of the most prevalent ungodlinesses in our time and many have gone unpunished when discovered that they were deceptive. Many have been deemed guilty by accusation which is totally against the law of the land and above all—the Word of God.

Today if someone doesn't like you, all he/she has to do to destroy your reputation, life, family, and career is to raise false accusations lie about you, and slander you in the court of public opinion, and sad to say most people will treat the accused as guilty with no second thought that a false accusation, character assassinations, lies, and slander are not a final verdict. Most of the accusations have no verification, and they have no collaboration.

Oh, how these ungodly behaviors have destroyed many families and lives! The most worrying thing is this could easily happen to any of us.

One day I heard one ungodly woman on television say that the **"testimony of a woman must be believed as true without collaboration or verification."** **Nothing can be further from the truth. This is purely ungodly, wrong, and foolish.** This television person was saying that the Word of God is not accurate and that we do not need two or three witnesses to verify and collaborate with an accusation. **She was saying that women can't lie.** She was saying that a woman can't be bought or used to falsely accuse a man of something untrue and

unfounded. Imagine how many lives could be destroyed if this was the pattern of dealing with an accusation.

The sad thing about this is that no one is immune to these false accusations. This can happen to anyone in any setting or environment. Someone can just come up and say untrue things about you and many believers plus the world will believe it without even giving the accused a chance to defend themselves or face their accusers and witnesses. I have heard situations where a person raised a false accusation without against another person without even ever meeting them and it became a stain on another person's life.

I know a prominent, powerful, godly man of God who was accused of multiple things that were bad including affairs and having multiple wives. The accusers wanted to destroy him. The other party should have treated the situation with maturity reaching out to the man of God out of respect and a long-term relationship and partnership, they did not give him an audience or hear him and made a verdict without hearing from him. This bothered me very much. It was so ungodly that the leaders did not help as they handled it with immaturity. That relationship between both of them was forever destroyed the man of God was hurt. Of course, what they accused him of were not true. It was an attempt to slander and character-assassinate him. Now that the man of God was innocent, where does he go to get his reputation back? His name back? Nowhere except to just trust God.

The law stands that one shall be innocent until proven guilty. You must tell the accused what they did, where they did it, and the time, and have two to three witnesses collaborating and willing to verify those accusations. Evidence or a legal burden of proof is required to convict a person of a crime. This principle and the entire American Judicial system is founded on the Holy Word of God (Deuteronomy 19:15-21).

A. Deuteronomy 19:15-21 *One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. [16] If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; [17] Then both the men, between whom the controversy is, shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; [18] And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; [19] Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you. [20] And those which remain shall hear, and fear, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. [21] And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

- a) These passages strongly forbid a witness of one. Such should not even arise for any sin or iniquity.

- i) Only in the mouth of two and three shall a matter be established. Many other passages in the Word of God fully promote a two or three witness (Matthew 18:16; John 8:17; Hebrews 10:28; 2 Corinthians 13:1).
 - b) It is possible for a false witness to arise against any or anyone.
 - c) Judges are to make diligent inquisition and if the witness is found to be false, whatever was to be done to the accused shall be instead done to the accuser.
 - i) In other words, the accuser should not get away with false accusations. Today many false accusations go unpunished, and they have only increased. This is the wrong approach and will cause false accusations to increase.
 - ii) It seems that in our society, false accusers get away with this all the time. There are no repercussions to their false accusations.
 - d) Punishing the lying false accuser would deter others from falsely making up allegations and accusations against others. There ought to be severe consequences for making a false allegation because false accusations are ungodly and have destroyed so many lives.
- B. *Acts 6:8-15 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. 9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. 11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. 12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, 13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: 14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. 15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.*
 - a) These men accused Stephen of speaking blasphemous words against Moses and against God with the intention of stirring up people and elders against him. This slander led to the death of an innocent man.
- C. *2 Timothy 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

Titus 2:3 *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

It has been revealed by psychologists that men and women have different forms of aggression. For men, it is primarily physical aggression while for women it takes the shape of reputation destruction, slander, and gossip. This is not to say men cannot do the same, but it is more prevalent in women as their form of aggression.

“Women have to express aggression somehow unless you're willing to say that they're not aggressive. They just tend not to do it physically not to the degree men do, so they use other channels and what are the channels other than physical aggression if you're gonna be aggressive? You go after people **verbally** you go after them with **innuendo and gossip and reputation destruction.**”—Dr. Jordan Peterson

D. 1 Timothy 5:19 *Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.*

- a) The word “Elder” used here refers to more than an old person in age, but mostly to a **person in leadership.**

I point you back to the story of the man of God that I mentioned earlier. He was an elder, yet accusations were received against him without real witnesses.

All these passages were not followed while dealing with the accusations against an elder—the man of God.

- i) 1 Timothy 5:19
 - ii) Mathew 18
 - iii) Deuteronomy 19:15-21
- b) The same principle mentioned in Deuteronomy 19:15 still applies equally to those in authority. No accusation is to be received or accepted by a judge or anyone without two or three witnesses.
 - c) There is a greater need to follow this principle because one person’s accusation could easily discredit a leader and keep them out of the pulpit. Today we have many people who yield to Satan and slander those in leadership. Having multiple people collaborate on a story and giving audience to the accused to be heard will stop abuse and discrediting due to personal and selfish reasons.
 - d) A witness is one who furnishes evidence or proof. He is more like a martyr. It is one who is willing to put their name and life on the line. People who are not willing to put their names on paper are not true witnesses.

- i) An anonymous source is not a witness. A witness or verified source must be willing to come forth with their identity and name.
- e) The word “receive” is refereeing to “admit or accept.” No accusation is to be accepted or received unless it is brought forward by two or three witnesses.
- f) Charges or allegations that do not have two to three witnesses should be ignored and/or dropped. They are unfounded according to the Word of God.
- g) If two or three witnesses are present, it does not mean that their witness is true.
 - i) These witnesses could be mercenaries.
 - ii) The judge or the person in charge of addressing these accusations must “make diligent inquisition” (Deuteronomy 19:18). This means they must investigate thoroughly, looked into the allegations or accusations with care, without prejudice or bias, and favoritism. The judge must question and find out if the witness is lying or telling the truth, make a thorough inquiry to ensure that justice is done not just assume that if two or more people arise with an allegation, it ought to be true.
- h) Deuteronomy 17:6 *“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”*

It is ungodly to act on rumors as leaders to hang another person. As long as people still exist, rumors will.

In conclusion, if we can adhere to these biblical principles, we can significantly scare off, reduce and/or eliminate false accusations. The answer to the problems and challenges in our society lies in God’s Word.

Ephesians 4:31 *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

1 Peter 4:4 *Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*