

## THE BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO PERSONAL DEFAMATION

Reference: **miscellaneous Scripture**

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Definition: Personal defamation is a term used to describe a \_\_\_\_\_ that is made about someone intending to harm that person's reputation.

Personal defamation comes in two basic forms:

Definition: Slander is when someone has made a \_\_\_\_\_ false statement about someone.

Definition: Libel is when someone has made a \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ false statement about someone.

This message primarily focuses on slanderous defamation.

**ONE** – we should understand slander is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Reference: **Leviticus 19:16; Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 10:18b, 30:10; Matthew 15:18, 19** (see screen)

**TWO** – we should maintain a \_\_\_\_\_ at all times.

Reference: **I Peter 3:16** (see screen)

**THREE** - we should know we do have biblical permission to \_\_\_\_\_ to slanderous accusations but it's not always \_\_\_\_\_ to do that.

Reference: **Proverbs 22:1; John 8:48, 49; Matthew 27:11-14; Ecclesiastes 7:21a**, (see screen)

**FOUR** – we should confront the slanderer in \_\_\_\_\_ if possible.

If someone offends us through defaming us then we have two available biblical options:

- We can (and most often should) let love \_\_\_\_\_ that offense (i.e. defamation).  
Reference: **I Peter 4:8** (see screen)
- We can go to that offending person and \_\_\_\_\_ about that offense (i.e. defamation) in hopes we can resolve the matter and be reconciled to one another.  
Reference: **Matthew 18:15** (see screen)

**FIVE** - we should exercise \_\_\_\_\_ (positional) **forgiveness** as soon as possible.

Ken Sande in his classic book "peacemakers" argues that human forgiveness is a two stage process: the first stage is called **attitudinal** forgiveness

**Definition:** Attitudinal forgiveness is unconditional forgiveness that transpires in our minds and attitudes between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The second stage of forgiveness is called **relational** forgiveness.

**Definition:** Relational forgiveness is a conditional forgiveness that transpires once the \_\_\_\_\_ repents from his sin and offense and asks the \_\_\_\_\_ person to forgive him.

**SIX** – we should refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ in defamation:

That means three things in particular

- \_\_\_\_\_ slander

Question...is it \_\_\_\_\_?

Reference: **Ephesians 4:15** (see screen)

Question...is it \_\_\_\_\_?

Reference: Reference: **I Peter 2:17** (see screen)

Question...is it \_\_\_\_\_?

Reference: **Romans 14:19** (see screen)

- \_\_\_\_\_ to slander
- \_\_\_\_\_ those that slander  
Reference: **Psalms 101:5; Proverbs 6:16-19; Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:14** (see screen)