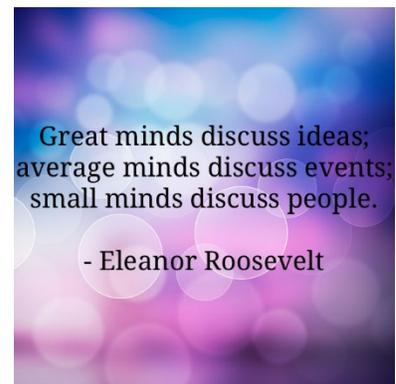


Charity Challenge: "Thinketh No Evil"

Have you ever tried to get glitter out of your carpet? You can probably get most of it, but it sticks like crazy and hides among the fibers—it's almost impossible to get it all! Gossip is much like glitter—we think we can control it, but once it's out and scattered, there's no way of getting it all back! Even with our best efforts, there will still be bits and pieces to clean up over time.



Satan works hard to tear relationships apart—families, friendships, and co-workers—it doesn't matter! One of his slyest tricks is tempting us to engage in judging and gossiping about others! Getting a juicy story may be exciting but it may be just that—a story! We may think someone is our friend because they confide in us about someone else, but really how do we know what they're saying is actually true and if they won't also speak ill about us behind our backs? Gossip is all over social media these days. Its negative effect is so harmful and can destroy lives.

Bad habits can be really hard to break, especially in social settings as we may be influenced by others and may find we are afraid of what others think if we stand up for what's right. Dieter Uchtdorf encourages, "We simply have to stop judging others and replace judgmental thoughts and feelings with a heart full of love for God and His children."

Ephesians 4:29 counsels "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."

So for the next 30 days, whenever you are thinking about someone and you are tempted to share information or someone comes up to you with a mouthful of news, take these steps to stop the train in its tracks!

1. Identify: This is judgmental/gossip
2. Verify! Ask questions to see if they have correct information.
3. Be Kind! State something positive about person or situation,
4. Move on! Promptly change the subject to a better one.
5. Work it out! Many times offense and judgement stem from misunderstanding! If there's a difficult situation you need to navigate, ask God for help then take it to that person instead of airing your frustrations to others.

What a difference this can make in your own life as well as the life of your family! Not only will you prevent a big mess, but your heart will be what's glittering, not the floor! We'd love to hear all about your efforts to shine! Share your experiences here!