Verbal Vandalism
Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 7:1

Introduction:
A. What would you think if:
   1. A brother was seen pouring water into a bottle of precious ointment belonging to another.
   2. A brother was seen spraying painting graffiti on a beautiful home of another.
   3. A sister was seen keying the side of a new car just bought by a brother?
B. Brethren sometimes deface or destroy something more precious – one’s good name.

Discussion:
I. Ways to Vandalize One’s Good Name
   A. Slander
      1. Old Testament condemnation (Ex. 23:1; Prov. 10:18; Jer. 6:28)
      2. New Testament condemnation (Rom. 1:29; 2 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 3:11)
   B. Talebearing/Gossip.
      1. Proverbs and gossip/talebearing (11:13; 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 26:20)
      2. This sin often grows out of idleness (1 Tim. 5:11)
   C. Bad excuses for repeating gossip or slander
      1. “But, his own brother told me” (Psa. 5:12)
      2. “But, good brethren told me” (Jer. 9:4)

II. God’s Protection Against Verbal Vandalism.
   A. Under the Old Testament
      1. Required sufficient witnesses (Deut. 17:2-7; cf. Heb. 10:28)
      2. False witnesses were severely punished (Deut. 19:15-21)
   B. Under the New Testament (1 Tim. 5:19; Matt. 7:1-5).

III. Our Own Protection Against Verbal Vandalism
   A. Refuse to be a party to it. (Prov. 17:4; 25:23)
   B. Live so as to render gossip and slander ineffective (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:16)
   C. Be sure that any suffering is not justified. (1 Pet. 4:15-16)

Conclusion:
A. Let us learn to:
   1. Oppose this evil, even in the closest of friends.
   2. Learn to control our own tongues.
   3. Not be hasty or overly harsh in judgment (Ill. Man with wheel barrow)
   4. Recognize real proof over mere hear say.
   5. Seek to restore in the spirit of meekness (Gal. 6:1)
B. If you are a vandal, repent of it?
C. If you have been vandalized, try to meekly bring gossips to repentance.