

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness—Isa. 35-8

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Mrs. Harishorn Mullen,
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LET US GOSSIP ABOUT HOW GOOD PEOPLE ARE

(Matt. 5:43-47; Matt. 19:19; I Thess. 3:12)

There are at least two kinds of people; those who speak well of you when your back is turned, and those who find fault with you when you are beyond earshot. Which kind of people would you rather have talk about you?

Evidently I am getting only one kind of answer: we do not fancy anybody going around spreading evil things about us, even if they are true. If there is anything evil to be said about us, we would prefer it being *to* us. (Although we do not always enjoy even that.)

That much is settled. If it is the other person, we do not want *him* to go about talking evil about others. Then would not the same rule apply to us? Is it not right and proper and according to the Golden Rule for us to refrain from speaking evil of others, even if it is true?

Let us examine ourselves to see what our practice has been in talking about others. Can we truthfully say that we speak at least kindly about others, or not at all?

Do not confound personalities with abstractions. Abstractly speaking, good is not to be evil spoken of, and evil is not to be good spoken of. Stealing is never to be commended, but it is something entirely different to accuse somebody of being a thief, even if it is true. One should condemn stealing at all times, but certainly not in such a way as to make it plain that you really have someone definitely in mind, and that your attack is not much on stealing as it is on someone who may or may not have been a thief, at least at heart.

If there is anything that is regrettable, it is for anybody to attack either sin or the sinner in such a way as to indicate that the attack itself is enjoyable to the one doing the attacking.

Said a father to his son, just as he was about to give him a switching, "My son, this hurts me worse than it does to you". The son replied "Yes, father, but not in the same place".

Certainly an attack on sin should not be enjoyable to the attacker, in any place whatever.

What is the Golden Rule? "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also unto them." It is plain that observing the Golden Rule will prevent us from gossiping about folks, if that gossip consists in calling attention to their weakness, sins or failings.

Now let us turn the problem around and ask ourselves, "Do I like to have other people say good things about me behind my back?"

Methinks I hear a great chorus from the large audience afforded by *The Christian Witness* throughout the United States and throughout the world. The answer is and I think it early unanimous—*Yes!*

This has nothing to do with flattery. The latter usually dishes out his flattery either directly to us, or to someone whom he is certain will repeat it to us. But good things said generally behind our back comes, not from a

desire to 'grind an axe' but just from the goodness and kindness and fairness and wholesomeness of the one who is doing the talking.

Begin right at home — that is an excellent place to start a lot of things. Speaking kindly about somebody is not something to be spread on thick just about once a year or once in a lifetime—say, at the funeral. It is something to be made a part of the daily practice.

If you do not make a habit of speaking kindly of your father or brother or sister, and suddenly have a lot of kind things to say, people will wonder whether it is somebody's birthday, perhaps they will wonder whether you are about to ask a favor of some kind. But when it is an every day affair to say good things about the other members of the family, nobody will suspect your intentions, but will know that you really mean what you say.

This good practice that is started at home should then spread out and include the people that you know and those that you do not know, and should finally include those that you call your enemies, and the worst people in the world, and the people of other countries, whether they are supposedly noble or ignoble.

Perhaps the first person you will think of, if you have discontinued your schooling and are now in business, is your employer. Strangely enough, many employees almost think of the employer as an enemy. But it is the employee who always sees the best in the employer, defends him, helps him, comforts him, who learns the business more rapidly and stands a better chance of promotion either in the business or another position.

If you are in school then you have an opportunity to speak well or ill of your fellow-classmates and your teachers. At least, you will be a little more distinctive, a little more unusual, if you make it a point to put in a good word for that teacher or that student who chances to be evil spoken of. And strangely enough, even the person who has been backbiting the teacher or student will in his heart (or her heart) look up to you as a superior person, even if, in the rebuff, he resents being contradicted.

Strange as it may seem, people sometimes backbite other members of the same church that they attend. You would not think that this could be so, but it is. That church member is distinctive, someone especially loving and especially beloved, who never speaks evil of another, never willingly listens to evil of another.

Do you know that there is something creative about appreciation? People like to try to live up to the reputation that has been given them. So try saying something good even about folks that are seemingly worthless, and see whether or not it doesn't help them to make a fresh start in life.—*Christian Witness*.

There is but one way to tranquility of mind and happiness, and that is to account no external things thine own, but to commit all to God.—*Epictetus*.

THE END OF THE TRAIL

Having been taught evolution, materialism and atheism in their university courses, Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold killed Bobby Franks in 1924. The confessions obtained showed the murder to be a direct result of the teachings which they had accepted. Through the power of money the young men escaped the full penalty of their crime, but were sent to the penitentiary for life.

Now, in the case of Richard Loeb, earth's last chapter has been written. January 28th he was slashed to death with a razor in the hands of a fellow convict.

Loeb and Leopold were highly intelligent and were born to immense wealth. If they had been subjected to Christian teachings and had taken the Christian way they might have been great assets to society and lived for themselves happy and satisfied lives.

Of course those who have been trained well may go wrong, and even those who have been real Christians may be a terrible disappointment to all who know them. But when this happens it is in spite of their training and when they have gone contrary to the religion which they have professed. The fruit of Christianity is good, all good and always good. The rejection of it or the mixing of it with anti-Christian things may bring any results for which the real Christianity is not responsible.

The crime of the two young men was a direct fruit of the brute philosophy of life. By the fruit of a system it may be known.

So Richard Loeb, the slayer, has been slain. This is the end of the trail so far as we can see, but we can not see far. There is surely another life. Under a moral government that life is a necessity. Men may deny and evade and blaspheme, but there is no escape.

GEMS OF GOLD

Isabel E. Zehr

From *My Bible*

Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.—Col. 3:2.

From *My Reading*

Christian Perfection is a spiritual constellation made up of these gracious stars—perfect repentance, perfect faith, perfect humility, perfect meekness, perfect self-denial, perfect resignation, perfect hope, perfect charity for our visible enemies as well as for our earthly relations; and, above all, perfect love for our invisible God, through the explicit knowledge of our Mediator Jesus Christ. And as this last star is always accompanied by all the others, as Jupiter is by his satellites, we frequently use, as St. John, the phrase "perfect love", instead of the word "perfection"; and understanding by it the pure love of God, shed abroad in the heart of established believers by the Holy Ghost, which is abundantly given them under the fullness of the Christian dispensation.—*Fletcher*.