

Conserving Community
The Integrity Partnership Pt 3
Ephes. 4: 1-6
Bud Wrenn 10/28/07

Ephes. 4:3-4 (NLT) Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit, and bind yourselves together with peace. [4] We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future.

Conserving Community: Living the Golden Rule.

Matthew 7:12 (NLT) "Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

COUNTERING THE COMMUNITY KILLERS

1) NEGATIVITY - A habitual obsession with insignificant points of adversity
1 Cor. 3:1-3 (NLT) I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life. ... for you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your own desires?

Counter 1: Communicate a positive about the situation.

Counter 2: Break off the encounter

2) MEDDLING - Collecting information, usually negative, is significance.

Meddler - Negative person with an interest in others.

Getting involved in areas in which you have no direct interest.

2 Thes. 3:11-12 (NLT) Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time meddling in other people's business. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we appeal to such people—no, we command them: Settle down and get to work. Earn your own living.

Counter 1: Find your strengths and invest your time leveraging them.

Counter 2: "I'll go with you to share this with them."

3) GOSSIP - Sharing information is power.

Gossip - Meddler with poor judgment.

Proverbs 17:9 (NLT) Disregarding another person's faults preserves love; telling about them separates close friends.

Counter 1: Change the subject.

Counter 2: "I have enough to worry about in my own life."

4) FRAUDULENT CONFIDENCES - Placing of an undue burden on an uninvolved third party, in attempt to sway their opinion against a second person. FCs impose guilt as a motivation for the person not to alert the second person about what was said about them. (Triangulation)

Proverbs 11:13 (NLT) A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

A Gossip with manipulative intent.

Counter 1: "If this is not something you can share with _____, then please don't share it with me."

Counter 2: "Why do you want to tell me this?"

Proverbs 2:6-7 (NLT) For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. [7] He grants a treasure of good sense to the godly. He is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity.