



Minding Our Own Business

There's no need to remind you we are in a spiritual battle and that we need to know how to fight. Interestingly, our foremost weapon is our *exousia* (spiritual authority), not “the sword of the Spirit” or “the word of God”. If we can't use our *exousia*, we are easy pickings for our enemy.

The first and foundational principle of spiritual authority is: 'Mind your own business'.

Busybodies and gossips can't operate properly in spiritual authority because their source of authority is themselves. Spiritual authority, however, is submitting to a higher authority than ones self, one that originates in the realm of the spirit – i.e. Almighty God. Ourselves and our own ideas and principles are actually irrelevant when it comes to spiritual authority.

As sons we are to focus on the Kingdom and our responsibilities. This is a Kingdom principle. Everything else must be prioritised through our understanding of righteousness and our responsibilities as sons to align with Heaven. Unfortunately, we need quite a bit of reprogramming to achieve this.

We have been taught in church circles that there are many evil things we are to avoid, but there are others which we don't categorise as 'evil', but which are definitely unrighteous. By unrighteous I mean, 'not righteous' – i.e. not in right standing with God's ways, plans or purposes. Of course, anything that misses the mark of righteousness is actually sin – that's the definition of sin.¹

Here's a list² from Apostle Paul of the actions that humans began doing when “God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome”³. See which ones of them our society considers to be OK, but which aren't right for God's Kingdom people because Paul identifies them:⁴

1. evil
2. greed
3. depravity
4. envy
5. murder
6. quarrelling
7. deceit
8. viciousness
9. gossip
10. slanderer
11. God-hating
12. haughtiness
13. arrogance
14. boasting
15. inventing evil
16. disobedience of their parents
17. foolishness
18. faithlessness
19. heartlessness
20. ruthlessness
21. jealousy

1 – SIN: [Noun, G266, *hamartia*] literally 'a missing of the mark', but this etymological meaning is largely lost sight of in the NT. It is the most comprehensive term for moral obliquity. (studybible.info/vines/Sin%20%28Noun%20and%20Verb%29)

2 – Romans 1:28-31

3 – Romans 1:28 (AMPC)

4 – #1-#20 are from Romans 1:29-31; #21-#26 are from 2 Corinthians 12:20



22. anger
23. selfishness
24. slander
25. arrogance
26. disorderly conduct

One of those actions that we consider not to be evil, and usually neutral, is being a busybody. A busybody is someone who is unduly interested in the affairs of other people. The extreme, of course, is being totally absorbed with other people's business, but it starts surreptitiously by not staying focussed on your own affairs.

Being a busybody is a fallen-state propensity as the reality TV shows like 'Masterchef', 'Farmer Wants a Wife', 'I'm a Celebrity Get me Out of Here' and 'Gogglebox' show by the large following of dedicated viewers they have.

But, is being a busybody really that bad, or is this just being hyper-holy?

Let's see what the NT has to say about it.

Concentrate Appropriately

1 Thessalonians 4:11 (NKJV) – *that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,*

1 Thessalonians 4:11 (AMPC) – *To make it your ambition and definitely endeavor to live quietly and peacefully, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you,*

This is pretty clear – concentrate on your own affairs, spend your time working at something, cease being frenetic and hold your peace. Strive to do this. Put your energy into this and not the affairs of others.

Lazy Busybodies

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 (NKJV) – *For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such **we command** and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.*

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 (AMPC) – *Indeed, we hear that some among you are disorderly [that they are passing their lives in idleness, neglectful of duty], being busy with other people's affairs instead of their own and doing no work. Now we charge and exhort such persons [as ministers in Him exhorting those] in the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) that they work in quietness and earn their own food and other necessities.*

This's a 'chicken and egg' situation: Does being a busybody make a person lazy, or, do lazy people become busybodies? Either way, the issue is that laziness and busy-bodying are not something that Kingdom citizens are to adopt as a facet of the life.

'Busybody' in the Greek

Here's what the Greek words used for 'busybody' mean so you get the closest understanding of the writer's intent:



A — περιεργάζομαι (Strong's #4020 — Verb — periergazomai) Literally, "to be working round about, instead of at one's own business" (peri, "around"; ergon, "work"), signifies to take more pains than enough about a thing, to waste one's labor, to be meddling with, or bustling about, other people's matters. This is found in 2 Thessalonians 3:11, where, following the verb ergazomai, "to work", it forms a paronomasia. This may be produced in a free rendering: "some who are not busied in their own business, but are overbusied in that of others".

B — περίεργος (Strong's #4021 — Adjective — periergos) Akin to **A**, denoting "taken up with trifles", is used of magic arts in Acts 19:19; "busybodies" in 1 Timothy 5:13, i.e., meddling in other persons' affairs. See CURIOUS.⁵

Some busybody actions we can undertake which are inappropriate:

1. Giving advice when it's not requested
2. Wanting to know what others have done during the day
3. Asking personal questions we need no knowledge of
4. Stickybeaking into other people's belongings, properties or homes
5. Wanting to know lots of detail so you "know how to pray" for others
6. Entering places you have no authority to access
7. Thinking about other people's problems you have no business thinking about
8. Trying to solve other people's problems in your mind that you have no business solving

Busybodies Become Gossips

1 Timothy 5:13 (NKJV) – *And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.*

Idle people who aren't busily occupied in work or some productive pursuit quickly become busybodies who eventually become gossips. Paul concludes this statement about busybodies with: "some have turned aside to Satan."⁶ Sobering words.

Gossips Become Whisperers

In the previous Corinthians reference⁷ the term 'whispering' was used. In some English translations this is rendered 'gossiping'. What is 'whispering'? It's not what you think!

The Greek words used for this term are psithuristes and psithurismos, which relate to the magical whisperings of a snake charmer. The word in public use refers to secret slander. Psithuristes is synonymous with katalalos, 'a backbiter'⁸, which denotes a person guilty of open defamation, while psithuristes is one who does it clandestinely (secretly, 'behind their back').

Busybodies and gossips usually develop into people who want to give their opinion all the time and this often works out in having opinions of other people. This is where 'whisperers' come from. Critical people who gossip or talk about other people usually talk negatively and move into slander – even if they're not trying to.

5 – Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words [public domain]
(www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved/b/busybody.html)

6 – verse 15

7 – 2 Corinthians 12:20

8 – Romans 1:30



Conclusion

Busy-bodding on other people's business, gossiping about them, telling rumours, are all activities that have no place in the Kingdom. It's pretty clear that we are to mind out own business, cease being lazy and concentrate on Kingdom business.

IMPORTANT: If we can't cease our busybody activities, we can't successfully move in spiritual authority because spiritual authority requires self-control.

Laurence
18-7-2017
(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

COPYRIGHT

*Quotes are the copyright of their authors.
This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length.
All Canberra Forerunners' documents are licensed under
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License*