

The FBC Commitment to a Good Report

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How do we distinguish a prayer request or an everyday comment or complaint from gossip or giving a bad report about someone? It can be tricky, but it's too important to simply shrug off.

Some questions we should all ask ourselves:

- Am I simply venting about what's bothering me and not giving it a second thought?
- Do I say these things to others and not to the person I'm irritated with?
- Am I saying this to build up the other? (*the person I'm telling or the person who offended me or disappointed me*)
- Am I sharing this problem **only** with someone who is part of the problem or part of the solution? If they aren't, I shouldn't be sharing it at all.

Every few years, the leaders here at FBC remind our church family about the importance of a commitment to a good report. We do this because people come and go from the congregation, and even those of us who have heard this before tend to forget.

As leaders, the elders and staff have a commitment to never share any personal information (*failure or fault*) about the people we're serving, with anyone who isn't part of the problem or part of the solution. This includes telling our spouses or trusted friends. And we want to remind our whole church family that this should be the same commitment for all of us.

Here's what we have all committed to as part of the FBC family:

In obedience to the Word of God, we hereby commit ourselves to the goal of giving a good report. When it is not possible to say what is good about a brother or sister, we purpose to remain silent or to privately go to the person, confirm our goal, and explain the offense that would hinder us from giving a good report. We hereby purpose to approach an offender in a spirit of genuine love having first examined and corrected our own attitudes and actions. Only if we are unable to restore an offender will we share the problem with others according to the principles of Scripture. When we violate this goal, we purpose to ask forgiveness knowing that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.