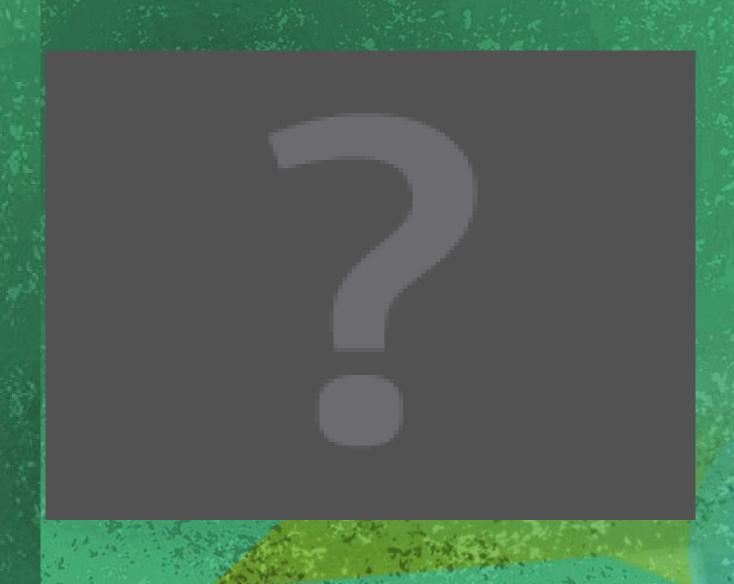


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Don't Share If:

- 1. Other people are participants in your mistake
- 2. People have become your adversaries
- 3. People love you so much they can't be critical





Don't Share If:

4. Confiding would harm long-term relationships

Can you believe . . .?

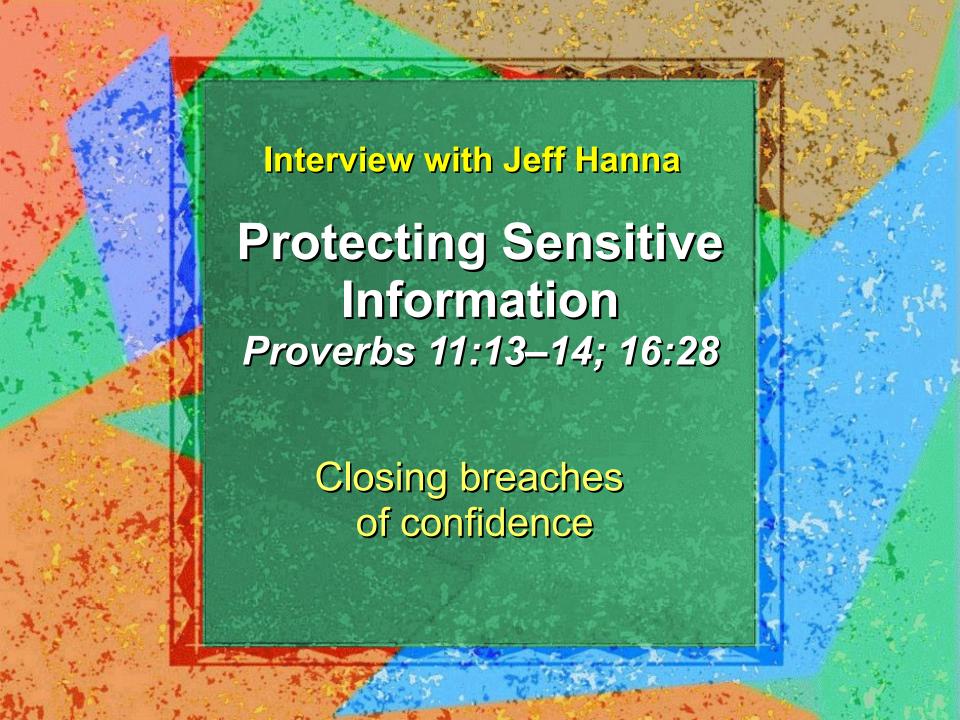
5. People can't be trusted with confidences

6. People are too involved to offer unbiased advice





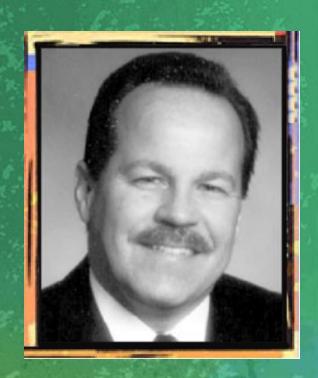
- 1. How can church leaders benefit from sharing struggles with the wider church?
- 2. What sins do we need to confess only to God, and why?
- 3. What are some issues we should take to an outside adviser for help?





Interview

"We have to be careful we don't let fear of these things stymie ministry."



Jeff Hanna

BUILDING CHURCH LEADERS



When Something Illegal Happens

- Have procedures in place
- Decide in advance who has the authority to make decisions

Retain legal counsel

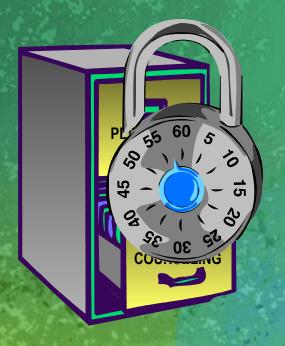
Document everything





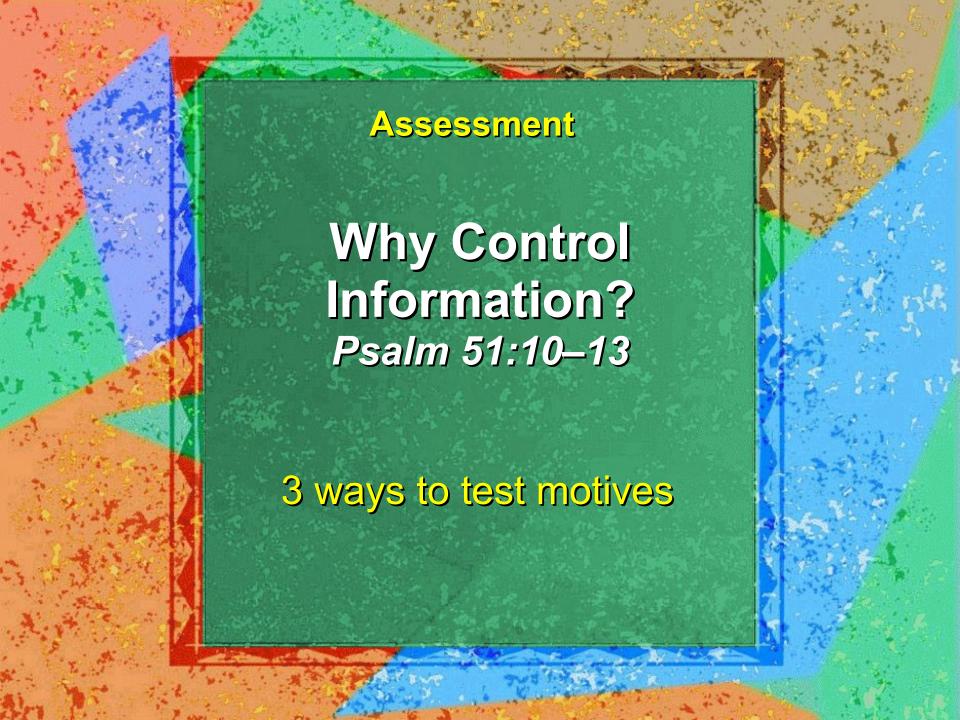
To Safeguard Documents

- Use locked filing cabinets
- Restrict access to offices and computers
- Keep backup copies off site





- 1. In what ways do we protect sensitive information?
- 2. In what areas do we need to create policies and procedures? How will we do that?
- 3. To whom can we go for legal advice?



Wrong Motives for Controlling Information

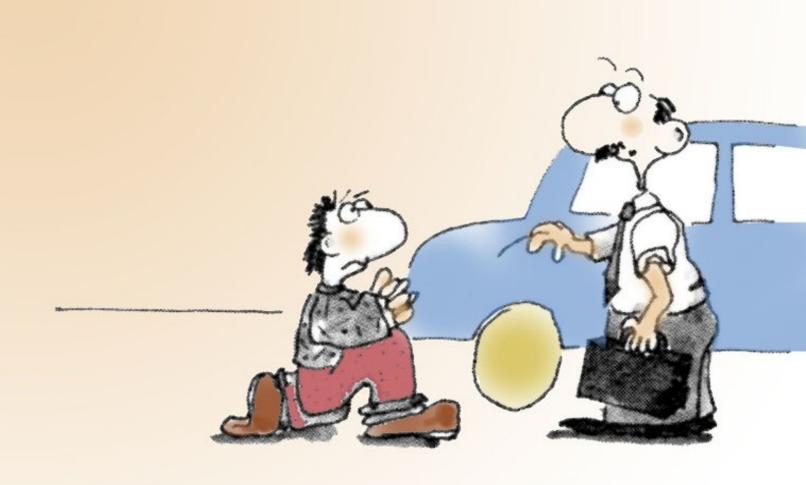
- 1. I try to control others by choosing what I will and will not tell them
- 2. I feel pride when I know something sooner than the rest of the church
- 3. I use information to impress or manipulate people



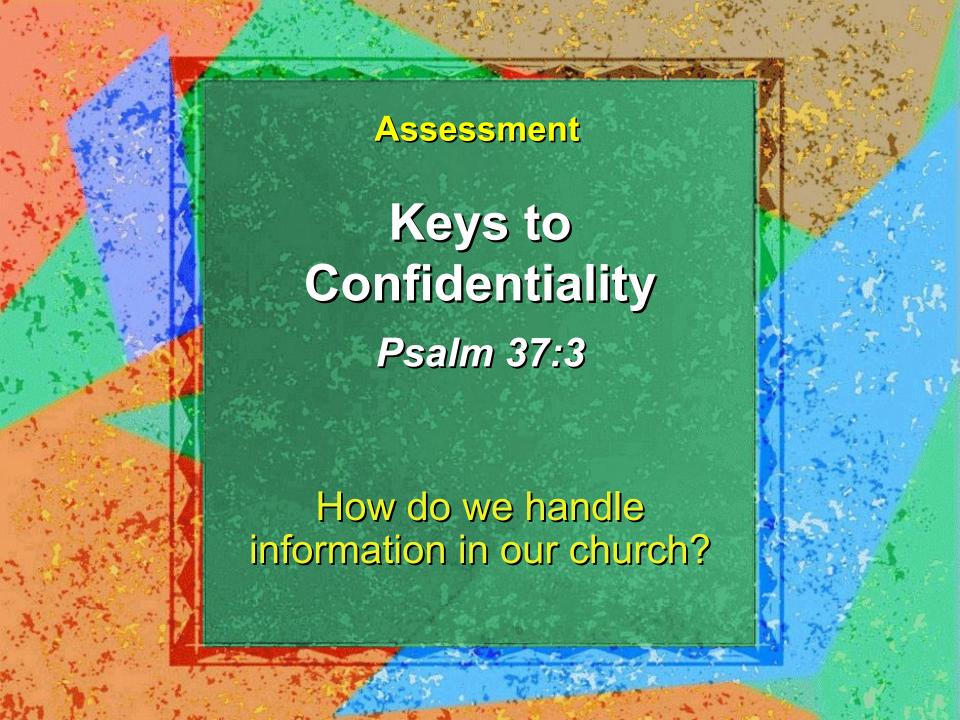


- 1. In what other ways do people misuse confidential information?
- 2. How should a leader feel about knowing privileged information?
- 3. What aspect of handling information would you like to improve?





"It's hard to be honest when you have no plans for the weekend and the youth director asks if you could ple-e-e-e-ase fill in for an absentee chaperone at the lock-in?





How Do We Handle Information?

- 1. We have a system to identify and store sensitive documents
- 2. A limited number of trustworthy people have access to sensitive documents
- 3. We use a shredder to dispose of information no longer needed







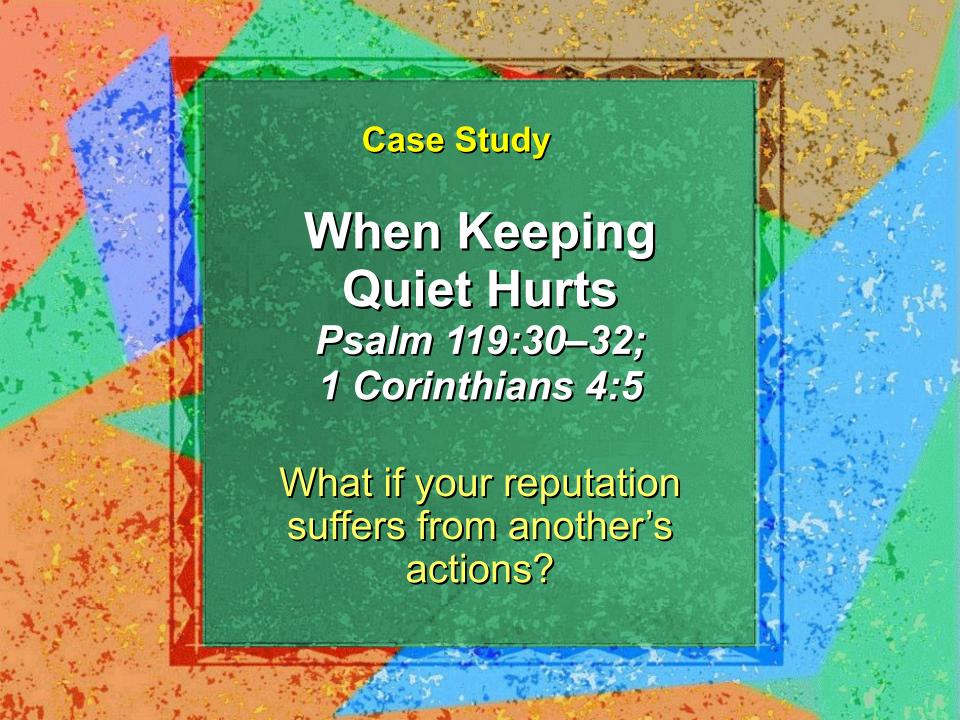
How Do We Handle Information? (cont.)

- 4. Our office workers have pledged confidentiality
- Our secretary knows how to handle sensitive phone calls or drop-in visits
- 6. Phone logs are kept in a discreet place
- 7. Everyone knows what is confidential and to whom it should be disclosed





- 1. In which areas are we doing well preserving confidentiality?
- 2. In which areas are we not careful enough with private information?
- 3. What steps does our church need to ensure confidentiality?





The Case

A church chose to buy a church building that also housed a school. The buying church agreed to keep the school open until teachers had time to relocate. When asbestos was found in

down the purchase of the school. As a result, the teachers lost their jobs.

the building, the buyer slowed



What Would You Do?

 Would you go public with the asbestos problem to explain your buying delay to the teachers or protect the seller by keeping quiet?

Who ends up losing if both buyer and seller fail to explain the situation?





What Happened

 The buyer did not disclose the asbestos problem to protect the selling church

 The buyer urged school faculty to trust the church's decision and gave teachers a month's severance pay

God blessed the church's decision





- 1. Do you agree with this church's decision? Why or why not?
- 2. In what circumstances would it be wrong to keep silent about someone else's action?
- 3. What Scripture passages support protecting another's reputation above your own?









Good Gossip

Gossip, related to the word for godparent, has a holy derivation

Holy gossiping can spread the word about others' needs

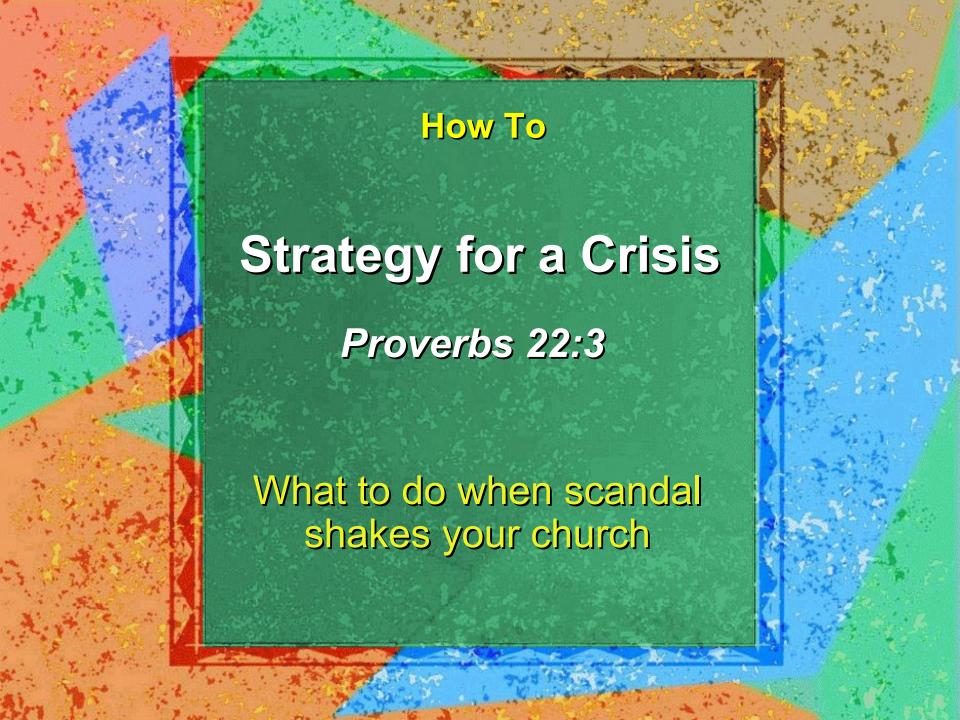


- 1. What is the difference between holy gossip and unholy gossip?
- 2. What are some ways you can use holy gossip to show love and concern?
- 3. How can holy gossip help us build a stronger church community?

Pray

Pray to use information to increase love and compassion in your community







8 Key Actions

- 1. Seek immediate legal counsel
- 2. Determine if a criminal report is required
- 3. Advise the accused to seek an attorney
- 4. Contact the church's insurance company



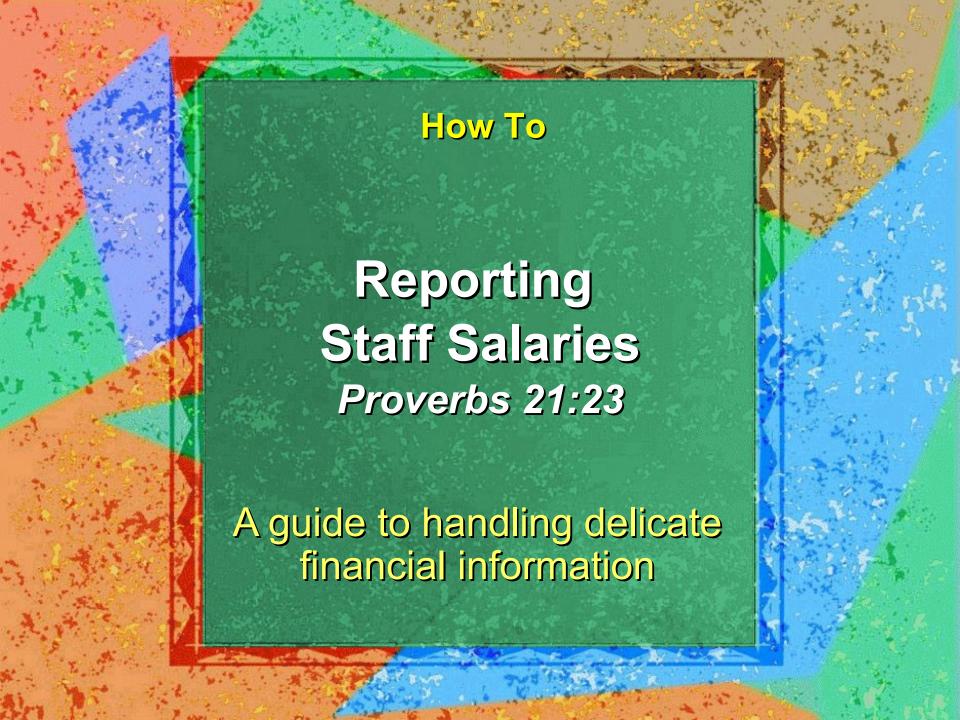


8 Key Actions (cont.)

- 5. Assign people to support the victim and accused
- 6. Implement a plan of communication
- 7. Do further investigation
- 8. Make counseling available



- 1. What mistakes do we want to avoid if a church leader is accused of misconduct?
- 2. Who should be included on a crisis response team? Who would be best qualified to lead it?
- 3. What should we do to prepare for allegations of misconduct?





Why Not to Disclose Individual Salaries

- Not everyone needs to know
- Some may not understand considerations that went into staff members' packages
- Knowing individual salaries could provoke envy or bitterness





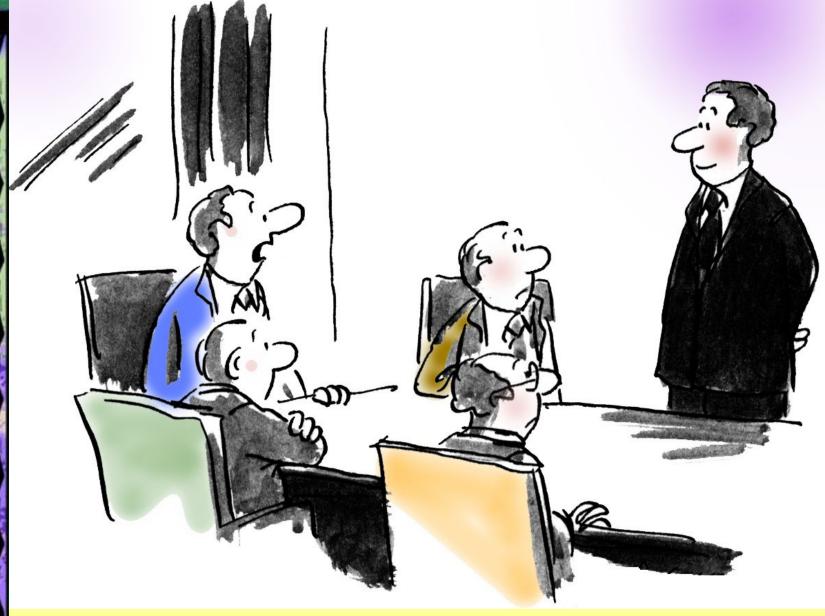
When to Disclose Salaries

If a staff member's salary is raising serious questions

If this information is pertinent to a leadership issue and is being requested by a qualified leader in the church

- 1. How does our church handle the disclosure of staff salaries? What is good about this approach?
- 2. Are there ways to improve our policies on what we disclose?
- 3. In what instances should a pastor discuss staff salaries with a congregation?





"What do you mean, in lieu of a salary increase you'd prefer Sundays off?"



Final Thoughts

- 1. What was a new insight for you during this session?
- 2. What is a pertinent confidentiality issue for our church?
- 3. What changes will you make as a result of this session?



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