

Proverbs 25:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy
turn not away.

Analysis

Lest the hearer reproach you, and your infamy not turn away. The Hebrew 'chasad' (reproach/put to shame) and 'dibah' (infamy/evil report) describe reputational damage from revealed secrets. If you expose others' secrets in disputes, hearers will distrust you - if you revealed their secret, you'll reveal mine. Trustworthiness requires confidence-keeping. Those who expose secrets lose others' trust. This warns: preserving reputation requires preserving others' confidences.

Historical Context

Proverbs repeatedly emphasizes speech's power and discretion's value (11:13, 20:19, 25:9). Ancient communities depended on trust; reputation mattered immensely. Someone known for revealing secrets faced social isolation. Modern social media culture encouraging public exposure violates this wisdom. Viral shaming and public callouts damage both exposed and exposer. Wisdom maintains discretion.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What reputation damage have you suffered from revealing others' secrets or having yours revealed?
2. How can you cultivate trustworthiness through confident discretion?
3. What temptations to expose others' faults publicly need to be resisted through private resolution?

Interlinear Text

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it put thee to shame

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Lest he that heareth

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and thine infamy

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turn not away

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