

will undoubtedly follow in doing the same.

Several Proverbs speak clearly to the issue:

Prov. 11:13 - "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."

Prov. 16:28 - "A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends."

Prov. 26:20 - "Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down."

Love deals directly with a source of irritation. Lev. 19:17 says "Do not hate your brother in your heart, rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt." When one person wrongs another, the person who has been treated badly may become resentful and harbor bitter hatred towards his assailant. Rather than keeping silent and allowing the bitterness to deepen, love dictates that the wrongdoer must be confronted and the situation dealt with openly. This clears the air and often leads to reconciliation. There are a number of wise sayings that underline this principle.

Prov. 9:8b - ". . . rebuke a wise man and he will love you."

Prov. 15:31-32 - "He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding."

Prov. 17:10 - "A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool."

Prov. 27:5 - "Better is open rebuke than hidden love. The kisses of an enemy may be profuse, but faithful are the wounds of a friend."