

“Hiding hatred makes you a liar; slandering others makes you a fool.” Proverbs 10:18 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 10:13-21

Now here's an axiom that is both hard and it hurts to practice! It's easy to fake people into thinking you like them, agree with them or you've "got their back." Just laugh at their jokes, smile and nod every once in a while and flatter the heck out of everything they say. Those three things really throw them off the scent that you actually hate them. Oh, I know hate is such a strong word and now it's like a curse word. Folks will shame you for using the word hate, but say nothing when someone drops a string of F-bombs, weird huh? But old wise teacher, Solomon knows, people are easy to fake. Then he adds, slandering others is what makes you a fool. What is that all about? Here's my guess. People flatter you to your face, but when your not around, they tell others all the negative things they really think about you. Here's some advice: 1. Avoid flattery, 2. When someone is dishing dirt or throwing shade about someone you know they are asking if you'd like to play the fool's game of STUPID. It's a fools game because when someone shares negative characteristics about a common friend, just know they are sharing all your negative traits with others behind your back. So when you start hearing awful things about a friend and they are NOT there to defend themselves, just know you are on the stupid list. I am trying to get out of playing the fool's game by saying, "I just don't find that to be true about Bob or Barb." It will end the game and you've saved friendships all around. I don't know if they'll still share 🐔 about you, but at least you've defended instead of de-friended a friend. Make sense?

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dear Dad,

I am sorry that I play too many petty games with people. I am sorry that I dishonor them and you in the process. If someone was going to say bad things about me behind my back, I would want a friend who knows me and loves to stick up for me, defending me. PLEASE help me do that more often and not be a chicken 🐔 as often as I am.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root