

Am I a Busybody?

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Today is Thursday 09 March 2023 and I wrote this short article yesterday 08 March 2023 after a conversation with a friend.

It's been seven days today since last week Thursday 02 March 2023, when a shameful event happened, I started to have sleepless nights. I initially thought my sleeplessness was as a result of pre-exam anxiety, but after the exam on Monday 6 March 2023, my sleepless nights continued. On 08 March 2023-Wednesday- yesterday, I finally got a clue. "IM A BUSYBODY," that's the message I got on 08 March 2023-Wednesday- yesterday after the conversation with a friend.

Well, the friend never told me in my face that I am a busybody, but it is what he said that made me think about what happened last week Thursday 02 March 2023 and I immediately remembered the teaching of Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 4:15 which reads:

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a evildoer, or as a busybody in the other people's matters"
(New King James Version Bible-NKJVB)

Let none of you suffer

Apostle Peter teaches us that criminals and evil doers suffer and that their suffering is brought on by their criminal activities against others. But is not only criminals who suffer, those who commit moral wrongs like being an evil doer and a busybody also suffers because of the negative things they do or did to others.

It's possible that as part of their sufferings these criminals, evil doers and busybodies have sleepless nights, just like I had. All the bad things that they have done to others keep them awake at night. I have been suffering like that since last week Thursday but All my suffering, my sleepless nights were caused, I AM A BUSYBODY.

We all understand what criminals and evil doers do, but what is a busybody? what does a busy body do?

1 Peter 4:15: Let none of you suffer... as a busybody in the other people's matters"

What is a busybody?

The Greek word for busybody is "allotriepiscopos" -*allotri-episcopos*

This word is made up of two words,

- (1) "allotrios" which means "someone else's" or "another's"
- (2) "episkopeo" which means Bishop- a supervisor over a person, an organisation. (Example a church).

In the Greek -English Lexicon (Liddell and Scott) The word "allotriepiscopos" has the following meanings:

- (1) a controller or a supervisor over that of another
- (2) an infringer on someone else's right
- (3) a meddler in things not of his calling

there is a fourth meaning which I found when I read 1 Peter 4:15, (from The New Testament and Psalms in the Free Bible Version translation in American English. Copyright © 2018 Dr. Jonathan Gallagher) which read:

"If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer, or a thief, or a criminal, or as a gossip"

The fourth meaning for a busybody is "a gossip"

So, a Busybody is a person who does one of the following things or all of them at once: be a gossip, infringes on the rights of others, meddles in the affairs/lives of others and can be someone who has control over his or her victims.

So, in short:

- **a busybody is someone who has supervisory responsibility or control over others**

Ezekiel 34: 1-3. A message from the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds who lead Israel. Prophesy and tell them that this is what the Lord God says: Disaster is coming to the shepherds of Israel, who only look after themselves, and not the sheep! Shouldn't shepherds make sure their flock is fed? You eat the cream, you use the wool for clothes, and you slaughter the fattened sheep, but you don't feed the flock.

We all know the power our shepherds (deacons, pastors and ministers) have over the flock, when they engage in benefiting themselves, they are being busybodies. Are politicians Busybodies? Eiesh!

- **a busybody is someone who meddles in the affairs of others,**

Proverbs 26:17 Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.

This busybody could be an **uninvited mediator**, who pretends to try and solve a dispute between conflicting parties, but in all truth only seeks to find out the latest gossip points. He finds himself at centre of the storm with all arrow directed him, parties to the conflict blame him for the origin, sustenance and escalation of it. He turns husbands against wife's and brothers against sisters.

- **a busybody is someone who infringes the rights of others,**

Proverbs 31:8-9. Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Busybodies have no interest in advancing the rights of their victims, their actions are evil and of a criminal nature. They serve their own twisted needs and desires.

- **a busybody is someone who gossips about others.**

1 Timothy 5:13- And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and **not only idle but also gossip** and busybodies, **saying things which they ought not.**

These busybodies itch when they don't have access to gossip, they as a result go from door to door, house to house, pretends to be your friend, your shoulder to cry on. The next thing you hear people talking about your private affairs, they look you in the eye and deny involvement in spreading your private affairs.

a busybody could be someone in your church, your pastor, priest, minister, your brother, sister, your close best-friend or your Boss at work.

In summary, the Apostle Peters message in 1 Peter 4: 14-16, is that Christians are blessed when they suffer or are cursed for Christs sake but there is no blessing in suffering as a busybody and further that when your suffering is for Christ, there is no shame but to suffer as a busybody is **shameful**. **1 Thessalonians 3:11-14**. Christians are called upon to disassociate themselves from busybodies, so that these busybodies can **be shamed**.

Dear Friend ...

- I meddle in your affairs?
- I gossip about you?
- I infringed your rights?
- I misuse my power against you?

Please forgive me, for being **a busybody** I am truly sorry and ashamed.

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