

absolute necessary. (No team leader or member should ever agree to keep a matter absolutely confidential. There may be cases where a team member will have to be disciplined by authorities beyond the team itself. In such cases, evidence should not be kept in confidence that would help those involved in a judicial process<sup>2</sup>).

In some cases, team members wounded in an endogenous conflict seek solace from those outside. The person so informed of the struggle will probably feel that the information brings with it the obligation to become involved. Their involvement may only go as far as passing the information to someone else. Like the concentric circles that move out from a pebble dropped in a quiet pool, the information spreads wider and wider. As it spreads, the information is distorted which exacerbates the situation.

Proverbs 17:9 speaks to the matter plainly. "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."<sup>3</sup>

The idea of containment is even clearer in Prov. 26:20. "Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down." In the case of a forest fire, bull dozers and other equipment are used to make a corridor through the unburned trees in the path of the fire. When the fire reaches the clearing, it dies for want of fuel. The fire is "contained."

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<sup>2</sup>Dr. Jay E. Adams elucidated this principle in a counseling seminar at which the writer was present.

<sup>3</sup>Also Prov. 11:13; 16:28.