

Conditions of Backbiting

Dr. Abdus-Salaam as-Suhaymi ¹ wrote that Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah [d.728h] mentioned, whilst explaining the permissibility of backbiting an innovator, two conditions that should be fulfilled before doing so:

[1] - Knowledge

[2] - Sincerity

Ibn Tamiyyah [d.728h] , said, "A person who is takes up the task of backbiting an innovator should have knowledge and sincerity. If a person takes part in backbiting an innovator, but at the same time he is seeking to raise his status in the eyes of the people, or he is seeking to cause corruption, it doesn't matter if he is speaking the truth, he is like a person who goes out to fight in a fit of rage, showing off.

On the other hand, if he backbites an innovator sincerely for the sake of Allah, he is like the inheritors of the Prophets (the Scholars), the successors of the Messengers, fighting in the path of Allah..." ²

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² Taken from "Be Serious about your Salafiyyah", Dr. Abdus Salaam as-Suhaymee, pg. 77

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