

The Garbage of Gossip (repreach)

“ What does the Bible say about GOSSIP?”

Answer: The Hebrew word translated “gossip” in the old testament is defined as

“One who reveals secrets, one who goes about as a talebearer or scandal”

- **A gossip** is a person who has privileged information about someone!
- Then proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it!!!!

Gossip is distinguished from sharing information in two ways:

1. Intent

- **Gossipers** often have the goal of building themselves up by making others look bad.
- They exalt themselves as some kind of friend to all, and know all!

2. The Type of Information Shared!

- **Gossipers** speak of the faults and failures of others.
- They reveal potentially embarrassing or shameful details about others!
- They do this without the knowledge or approval of the people!
- Even when they say I mean no harm, **It's still GOSSIP!!!!!!**

Proverbs 26:20-22 (NIV)

²⁰ Without wood a fire goes out;
without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

²¹ As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire,
so is **a quarrelsome person** for kindling strife.

²² **The words of a gossip** are like choice morsels;
they go down to the inmost parts.

- **This is not** what is referred to in the Bible asstir up the gifts. 😊

GOSSIP = 1. Rumor or reports. 2. Chatty Talk 3. A Person who habitually reveals personal or sensitive facts.

- Gossip starts with an **UNHEALTHY INTEREST** into someone else's business!
- Gossip seeks an **UNINVITED INVOLVEMENT** in someone else's concerns!
- Gossip spreads as an **UNWARRANTED INFORMING** of someone else's thoughts!

THE DELIGHT IN GOSSIP:

Proverbs 26:22 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

- Gossip is one thing that has to be bad in order to be good!
- Old Saying: If you can't say anything good about someone...don't say anything at all... **BUT**
- A Gossip says: If you can't say anything good about a person....LET'S HEAR IT, OR SHARE IT!!!
- The only time that **people dislike gossip**...is when it is about them!!!!

Paul Says: 2 Corinthians 12:20 -

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, **gossip**, arrogance and disorder.

Gossip Damages in Many Ways:

- 1. It Betrays – (Def.)” To hurt someone who trust you!!!!”**

Proverbs 11:13

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

- 2. It Separates – (Def.) To stop being together, or connected!!!!”**

Proverbs 16:28 - A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

GOSSIP CAUSES:

- IRREPARABLE DAMAGE
- IRRESOLVABLE DIVISION
- ISOLATION AND DETACHMENT

The Bible says that we must get rid of GOSSIP!!!!!!

Ephesians 4:31 - **Get rid of all** bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **(OR GOSSIP)**

FOUR GREAT QUESTIONS TO ASK SOMEONE THAT IS GOSSIPING TO YOU:

1. Why are you telling me?????
2. Where did you hear this from?????
3. Did you verify it with the one that it is about?????
4. Can I quote you freely and use your name??????

Proverbs 11:13 - A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 16:28 - A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Leviticus 19:16 - Do not go about spreading slander (GOSSIP) among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord.

Colossians 3:8 - But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, (GOSSIP) and filthy language from your lips.

James 4:11 - Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[a] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

Examine your attitude and actions towards others!

1. Do you build people up???????
2. Do you tear people down?????

When you are **ready to criticize** someone!!!!!!

1. Remember Gods Law of Love

Matthew 22:37-40 - 'Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind.' 38 **This is** the first and **greatest commandment.**

39 And the second is like it: '**Love** your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

2. Say something good instead of criticizing.
 - Saying something good of others **will cure you of finding fault!**
 - **It will increase your ability to obey God's Law of Love!**

Jesus summarized the law as love for God and Neighbor!!!!!!!

- **When we fail to love we are actually breaking the law!!!!!!!**

1 Peter 2:1 - Therefore, **rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (GOSSIP) of every kind.**

Titus 3:1-2 - **Saved in Order to Do Good – Right living in society**

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to **be ready to do whatever is good, 2 to slander (gossip about) no one,** to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

1. Our first **allegiance is to Jesus** our Lord!
2. Then show humility to **ALL!!!!!!!**

In **Romans 12:3** Paul wrote the clearest definition of humility apart from Jesus' own example.

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

- Humility then boils down to having an honest estimate of ourselves before God!
- We show false humility when we project negative worth! (Gossip)
- We show pride when we inflate the value of our efforts or look down on others.

Props – A Campfire that has gone out. Lots of trash bags full of something! Give all adults when they come in a trash bag with a sign attached – “ Deposit all trash talk here before leaving” Proverbs 26:20-22

Re-preach??? 9/15/19