

## 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)**

<sup>20</sup> Without wood a fire goes out;  
without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

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

<sup>22</sup> **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 as ....stir 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