

Gossip

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person” (Col. 4:6).

The opposite of this verse is “unseasoned” and “graceless” speech. Few things fit that description better than gossip. There is nothing harmless about gossip. It is wrong. It is shameful. It is sinful.

Much too often, when a person is caught gossiping, they will tell a lie to get out of the situation. We all can be guilty of “talking out of place” about others. Preachers can gossip. Elders can gossip. Family members can gossip about each other.

Definition of Gossip:

“Hearing something you like about somebody you don’t like.”



Before saying something that may be harmful, ask the following questions: *Is it necessary that I tell this? Will it profit me or him about whom I’m speaking? Would I dare say this if the person were in my presence? Would I want others to be talking about me in this way? Is what I am saying gossip? Would God be proud of me for saying these things?* An earnest endeavor to answer these questions may stop the flow of harmful words.

- * **Gossip Hurts Deeply.** The Proverb writer stated, *“The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body” (Pv 26:22).* Gossip wounds. It cuts deep inside. Gossip reveals how people really feel.

☛ **Gossip Destroys.** Again in Proverbs we read, “*A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends*” (Pv 16:28 – NIV). Families become alienated because of gossip. Brethren divide because of loose talking. Gossip creates doubt and it eats away at trust. At work, gossip can lead to a person getting fired. At home, gossip can lead to divorce. At church, gossip can cause brethren to stumble and fall away.

☛ **Gossip Dodges.** Instead of fulfilling our responsibility toward our brethren who error (Gal. 6:1), some gossip. They believe that if they talk to other members about the shameful behavior of some then they have demonstrated that they care. This is not God’s plan or pattern (Mt. 18:15-17; Jas. 5:16). Tattletales, gossips and spies are not a part of the organization of the NT church. Prayer and going to the parties involved is what God wants. Gossiping is the easy and cheap way out of doing what we should do.

☛ **Gossip Damns.** The Bible is very plain on this. Proverbs 18:7 says, “*A fool’s mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*” In the NT, Paul classed “gossips” with fornicators, murderers and the covetous (Rom. 1:29). Paul was concerned that he would find some of the Corinthians not as they should be as Christians. He identified characteristics that should NOT be among brethren, such as, “strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances” (2 Cor. 12:20). Gossip is named among these things.

Let us put away gossip and evil speaking (Col. 3:8).
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