



Gossip And Slander

June 18, 2023

1. Why do we gossip?

- A. Gossip comes from loving ourselves more than other people.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14 (ESV)

- B. Gossip comes from idleness.

Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.
1 Timothy 5:13 (ESV)

- C. Gossip comes from a desire to be the center of attention.

- D. Gossip comes from a desire to pull ourselves up by pushing others down.

- E. Gossip comes from bitterness.

2. What kinds of gossip are in the Bible?

- A. Gossip can be idle chatter. It is not necessarily malicious.

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,... 2 Timothy 2:16 (ESV)

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
Psalm 41:7 (ESV)

- B. **Slander** is intentionally sharing true or false information to undermine someone's life and destroy their reputation.

Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.
Jeremiah 9:4 (ESV)

3. What does the Bible say about gossip?

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

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

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.
Proverbs 18:8 (NIV)

Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.
Proverbs 26:20 (NIV)

A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.
Proverbs 20:19 (NIV)

Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.
Proverbs 17:4 (NLT)

Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation. Proverbs 25:10 (NLT)

As surely as a north wind brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger!
Proverbs 25:23 (NLT)

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Psalm 15:1–3 (NLT)

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, Romans 1:29 (NIV)

4. What does the Bible say about slander?

You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.
Psalm 50:20 (ESV)

Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister 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.
James 4:11 (NIV)

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

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
Leviticus 19:18 (NIV)

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.
1 Peter 2:1 (ESV)

Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate. Psalm 101:5 (NIV)

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. Titus 3:1–2 (ESV)

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:8 (ESV)

5. What are the myths of gossip and slander?

A. Gossip and slander are women's sins.

B. If something is true, it is ok to repeat it.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

C. **Prayer** concerns justify sharing sensitive information.

6. What should I do when people gossip about me?

A. **Pray** and leave the matter with God.

...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)

B. **Ignore** it.

Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.
Ecclesiastes 7:21–22 (ESV)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

C. **Go** to the one who is gossiping in a spirit of restoration.

...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Why do many insecure people involve themselves in gossip?
2. Why are laziness and slander linked? How does bitterness spawn gossip and slander?
3. **Read Proverbs 18:8 or 26:22.** Why is gossip attractive and addictive? What does it do to us?
4. How are gossip and slander different? Read the verses under gossip and slander in the outline. Which ones are most applicable to your life? Why?
5. **Read Leviticus 19:16-18.** What do these verses teach us about conducting ourselves in difficult relationships?
6. **Read Titus 3:1-2.** In what ways is this general statement of the Christian life most convicting?
7. How should we respond when we hear gossip or slander?
8. How should we respond when someone gossips or slanders us?