

What is Gossip? How is it Defined?

Leviticus 19:16 (7400)

NAS: “You shall not go about as a **slanderer** among your people...”

NKJ: “You shall not go about as a **talebearer** among your people...”

NIV: “Do not go about **spreading slander** among your people.”

Proverbs 20:19 (7400)

NAS: “He who goes about as a **slanderer** reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with a gossip.”

NKJ: “He who goes about as a **talebearer** reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”

NIV: “A **gossip** betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.”

Proverbs 11:13 (7400)

NAS: “He who goes about as a **talebearer** reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter

NKJ: “A **talebearer** reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”

NIV: “A **gossip** betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”

Proverbs 26:20 (5372)

NAS: “For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no **whisperer**, contention quiets down”

NKJ: “Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no **talebearer**, strife ceases.”

NIV: “Without wood a fire goes out; without **gossip** a quarrel dies down.”

Proverbs 26:22 (5372)

NAS: “The words of a **whisperer** are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body.”

NKJ: “The words of a **talebearer** are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.”

NIV: “The words of a **gossip** are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts.”

Proverbs 16:28 (7400)

NAS: “A perverse man spreads strife, and a **slanderer** separates intimate friends.”

NKJ: “A perverse man sows strife, and a **whisperer** separates the best of friends.”

NIV: “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a **gossip** separates close friends.”

Word 5372 (Hebrew)

Nirgan {neer-gawn'}

to murmur, whisper: 1a) murmurers 1b) backbite, slander, talebearer, backbiter

Proverbs 16:28, Proverbs 18:8, Proverbs 26:20, Proverbs 26:22

Word 7400 (Hebrew)
Rakiyl {raw-keel}
Slander, carry tales, talebearer

Lev. 19:16, Proverbs 11:13, Proverbs 20:19, Jeremiah 6:28, Jeremiah 9:4, Ezekiel. 22:9

GOSSIP/WHISPERING CAN VERY EASILY BECOME SLANDER

Word 1681 (Slander, Hebrew)
Dibbah {dib-baw}

- 1) whispering, defamation, evil report 1a) whispering 1b) defamation, defaming
1c) evil report, unfavorable saying

A Few Questions about Gossip

- Does gossip have to be directly spoken? Or can it be subtle manipulation?
- Is something considered gossip only if it is fictional? Can something true be considered gossip?
- Do we have the right to reveal secrets to our friends/girlfriends/boyfriend?
- Do we have the right to reveal secrets to our spouse?
 - If so, where is the scriptural authority?
- What if a person has hurt you, disappointed you, or done something to someone you care about. Do you have the right to say something to someone else about the situation? ***What is the difference between council and gossip?***

Reasons Why We Gossip/Whisper About Others

- We try to **help** people
- We **don't like them**, so we try to derail their character (**Romans 3:8**)
- We have power in our hands to instigate things, **power**
 - **Proverbs 18:6-8, James 3:5**
 - **Proverbs 18:21**
 - Some people really, like drama. 311 song, "No one's excited, unless they are divided"

How do We Prevent Gossip/Talebearing/Whispering?

If you are in a conversation with someone, what are some tale-tale signs of gossip or the revealing of secrets?

- "Do you know what so-and-so told me about Mr. X?"
- "I probably shouldn't tell you this, but..."
- "Didn't you hear about that? Everyone else has."
- "Well, I heard from so-and-so that..."
- "Well, that's not what I heard"
- Does the content involve someone else's business? If so, why are you talking about it?
- Do you ever hear people toss around someone's name in a conversation with someone else?

- Ask yourself, “Could I easily (in good conscience) go and tell what I have just said about Mr. X to Mr. X himself?”
- If Mr. X Found out I said this about him, would I be violating his trust?

Staying out of other people’s business:

- **I Peter 4:15**
- **I Thes. 4:9-11**

What to do if you hear something about someone or a situation

- **Deuteronomy 17:2-5**
- **Proverbs 18:13**
- **Proverbs 18:17**
- Think about logical court cases. Is a man proven innocent or guilty simply by an accusation before he himself has the chance to speak? By not approaching the person we hear something about, we are unjustly condemning, forming opinions, etc.

What Gossip “Says” About The Gossiper

- **Luke 6:43-45**
- **Matt. 12:33-37**
- **Matt. 15:18-20**

Stay away!!! Proverbs 20:19

What May We Speak About to Others?

- **3 John 9-12**
- **I Tim. 1:18-20, II Tim. 4:14-15**
- **Gal. 3:11**

Those with good Reputations and Reports

- **3 John 12**
- **Romans 16:1-16, look at Phoebe**
- **Phil. 2:22, 29-30**

Eph. 4:25-29