

What Should I Do If Someone Is Gossiping To Me?

- Don't take up their offense against the other person.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 18:17** The first to plead his case seems right, Until another comes and examines him.
- Encourage the gossiper to go the other person or you will have to.
 - ◆ Don't promise to keep it confidential.
- Stop associating with them if they continue.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 20:19** He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, **Therefore do not associate with a gossip.**
 - ◆ **1 Timothy 5:19-20** Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. 20 Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful of sinning.
 - ◆ **Titus 3:10** Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition

What If I Just Listen To Gossip?

- Those who listen to gossip are called evildoers.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 17:4** An evildoer listens to wicked lips; A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.

How Serious Is The Sin Of Gossip?

- God takes gossip seriously.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 6:16, 19** There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁹ . . . And one who spreads strife among brothers.
 - ◆ **Psalm 101:5** Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
 - ◆ **Psalm 50:19-21** You let your mouth loose in evil and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; . . . I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.

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Should I Say That?

Gossip in the life of a Christian



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What Does The Bible Say About Our Speech?

- The Bible is full of passages that condemn sinful talk.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 16:28** A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
 - ◆ **Proverbs 26:20-21** For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife
 - ◆ **II Tim 2:17a** But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. . .
 - ◆ **James 3:5-6** So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.
 - ◆ **James 4:11** Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.

- ◆ **James 5:9** Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

What Is Gossip?

- Gossip is sharing negative or confidential information with someone who is not a part of the problem or a part of the solution.
 - ◆ It includes griping and complaining to people who are not involved and can't do anything about it.
 - ◆ It includes venting your frustrations and dissatisfactions to the wrong person.
- Gossip seems to have been a sin that certain women in the early church were susceptible to.
 - ◆ **1 Timothy 3:11** Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips,
 - ◆ **1 Timothy 5:13** At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.
 - ◇ It is not okay for women to talk about everything because, “that’s just what women do.”
 - ◇ It’s not okay for friends to talk about everything because, “that’s what friends are for.”

- ◆ **Titus 2:3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips
- ◆ **Philippians 4:2** I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.
 - ◇ Apparently the conflict between these women was so well known that Paul had to address it in a public letter.
 - ◇ It had become an issue troubling the whole church.
- It is easy for us to rationalize and justify the sin of gossip.
 - ◆ It becomes a way of venting to friends when we are unwilling to deal with a problem the right way.
- Gossip is a sinister sin in that it is not only divisive, it raises doubts that are seldom checked out
 - ◆ These doubts continue to linger and cause problems in another person for years after the information was shared.
 - ◇ **Proverbs 18:8** The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.
- ◆ **Jewish Proverb:** Gossip can estrange the closest friends.
- ◆ **Welsh Proverb:** Lord, remind us often that a gossip's mouth is the devil's mailbag.