“Malignant Talk - Gossip and Slander”  
David Owens  
Psalm 15:1-3  
10/9/16

Introduction:
A. It is amazing how _______________ words of gossip and slander escape our lips!
B. Rumors, whether true or false, are devastating for many reasons - including the fact that they are _______________.

I. What Draws Us to Gossip and Slander?
A. The lure of _______________. (1 Tim. 5:13)
B. Gossip and slander can be linked to _______________.
C. The desire to be the _______________ of _______________.
D. The tendency to _______________ ourselves over others.
E. Gossip and slander are often spawned by _______________.
F. They may sooth our own _______________.

II. What are Gossip and Slander?
A. Simple definition of gossip: “When we are talking about a situation with somebody who is neither part of the ________________ or part of the ________________, then we are probably gossiping.” (Rick Warren)
B. Slander is the open, intentional sharing of ________________ information.

III. What does the Bible Say about Gossip and Slander?
A. The Bible speaks ________________ gossip and slander. (Lev. 19:16; Rom. 1:29-31; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Col. 3:8-10).
B. Gossip and slander are so ________________. (Pr. 10:18; 11:13; 16:28; 20:19; 26:20; 26:22; 30:10; Ps. 15:1-3)

IV. How Do We Justify Gossip and Slander?
A. We mistakenly believe that if the information is ____________, then sharing it is not ____________. (Eph. 4:29)
B. We justify it under the disguise of ____________ for others.

V. How Can We Avoid Gossip and Slander?
A. Maintain a ________________ and ________________ view of ourselves.
B. Walk in ________________ (Ps. 141:3)
C. Resolve not to ________________ gossip and slander.
D. Resolve not to ________________ gossip and slander. (Pr. 17:4)

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted the more I am believed. My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face. To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I am nobody’s friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion. I make innocent people cry in their pillows. Even my name hisses. I am called Gossip. I make headlines and headaches.