

“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.

Answer Key: Intro.A. effortlessly. B. irretrievable. I.A. curiosity. I.B. boredom. I.C. center, attention. I.D. elevate. I.E. bitterness. I.F. anxieties. II.A. problem, solution. II.B. damaging. III.A. against. III.B. damaging. IV.A. true, wrong. IV.B. concern. V.A. humble, accurate. V.B. prayer. V.C. pass, on. V.D. listen, to.