

## What or Who is a Gossip?

An ancient sage once told his novice helper to take a stack of flyers and lay them at the door of every home in the small town. The young man did. It took him all day. The sage then told him to go back and pick up every one of the flyers. By then, the wind had blown them around. People had found them and taken them in. It was impossible for him to bring back every flyer. The sage then told him that gossip is like those flyers. It doesn't take much to spread a rumour, but once you do, you can never completely undo the wrong.

**Gossip is** anything spoken about a person when the person is not present to defend himself and would be unhappy with the comment, had he heard it.

There usually is a measure of truth in the talebearers saga that as they expand the truth, others believe it. Or a rolling of the eyes or shrug of the shoulders at the right time to imply something may or may not of happened. Now this is fairly common, because they don't actually say anything, they feel their not gossiping.

Others again will only repeat what they been told and thus it is supposedly fact not gossip.

Do you remember the children's game of gossip? Everyone sits in a circle. One person whispers something to the person next to him. Then it continues around to the first person. How the information has changed! We all add a little something of ourselves. It ended up entirely different than it began. Our contribution to gossip is as damaging as the next person's words.

But we **justify ourselves**, after all we know what kind of person they are. (Oh, do You?) Well ya.

After all they hurt me or made ME look bad and I can't have my friends thinking that maybe I am the one at fault.

Lets look what the bible says on the subject:

Talebearer, Gossip, Whisperer, busybodies, tattlers and teller of secrets are all one of the same, it just depends on what version your using.

Proverb 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is

no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

1Timothy 5:13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

### What to do about Gossip?

Reject it and speak out against it.

"There are always two choices, two paths to take. One is easy. And its only reward is that it's easy."

If you do speak out against it, be prepared for this relationship to change a true friend don't mind being corrected providing it's done in a loving manner.

IF they get their nose out of joint just remember, if they gossiped about them, they will gossip about YOU as well.

**The easy way, is to say nothing. That way the only one you hurt is yourself, YOU SAY, HOW DO I HURT MYSELF ?**

Well again lets look at the Bible.

Ezekiel 3:20\* Again, **When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity,** and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: **because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin,** and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; **but his blood will I require at thine hand.**

Sounds pretty harsh eh !! **The deliberate SIN of Omission is just as big as ANY Sin of commission and NEVER forget that.**

These people and New Age Religions are deceived by Satan and when they stand before the Lord, He will say: Matthew 7:23\* **And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

So you see the tongue can kill just as if you were using a literal weapon.

### 7 points to help deal with Gossip

1. **REJECT THE GOSSIP.** Don't believe it until you have checked it out. Listen to both sides of a story and ask questions before believing anything. Determine the truth.

2. **SPEAK OUT.** Oppose the gossip. Correct the gossiper gently, politely, and with wisdom, and send him back to reconcile with the one he is gossiping about. "The person you're talking about is my friend. I can't listen to this." Be prepared for the relationship to change.
3. **SPEAK POSITIVELY.** Turn the conversation around by saying something nice about the person being talked about.
4. **WALK AWAY.** Don't be part of the problem by sticking around to listen.
5. **DON'T REPEAT GOSSIP.**
6. **GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT** in favour of the person gossiped about.
7. **MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION** not to participate in or listen to gossip. Think before you speak.

Hope this sheds some light on the subject.

Bro Ken