

I Don't Mean To
GOSSIP . . . *But . . .*



I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** . . . *But . . .*

gossip n –

(Oxford Living Dictionary) - Casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details which are not confirmed as true.

(Word Net) - a report (*often malicious*) about the behavior of other people; a person given to gossiping and divulging personal information about others

(Merriam Webster) - a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others

I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** . . . *But . . .*

8215 רָכִיל (*rā·kîl*): n.[masc.]; ≡ Str 7400; **slander**, i.e., harmful information about another person, spoken in an open, public setting ...2. **gossip**, i.e., harmful information about another person, as a semi-private, hushed communication
Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*

Leviticus 19:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You shall not go about *as* a **talebearer** among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I *am* the Lord.

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Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ A **talebearer** reveals secrets, But
he who is of a faithful spirit
conceals a matter.

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Proverbs 20:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ He who goes about *as* a **talebearer** reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

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8087 רָגַז (*rā·gāz*): Str 5372, 7279; (qal) **complain**, grumble, i.e., to express discontent in low tones (Isa 29:24+); (nif) **be grumbling** (Dt 1:27; Ps 106:25+)

Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)*

Proverbs 18:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The words of a **talebearer** *are* like
tasty trifles, And they go down
into the inmost body.

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Proverbs 26:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Where *there is* no wood, the fire goes out; And where *there is* no **talebearer**, strife ceases.

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psithuristés ψιθυριστής, οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλος ἢ ὁ ὅτις **one who habitually engages in gossip—‘gossiper.’**

πεπληρωμένους πάσῃ ἀδικίᾳ ...

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains

Romans 1:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness,
sexual immorality, wickedness,
covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy,
murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness;
they are **whisperers**,

I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** . . . *But . . .*

diabolos διάβολος^c, ου *m* and *f*: - one who engages in slander—‘slanderer.’ γυναῖκας ὡσαύτως σεμνάς, μὴ διαβόλους ... In 1 Tm 3:11 it may be appropriate to render διαβόλους as ‘gossipers.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains

1 Timothy 3:11 (NKJV)

11 Likewise, *their* wives *must be* reverent, not **slanderers**, temperate, faithful in all things.

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2 Timothy 3:3 (NKJV)

³ unloving, unforgiving, **slanderers**,
without self-control, brutal,
despisers of good,

I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** . . . *But . . .*

phluaros φλύαρος, ον: (derivative of φλυαρέω 'to talk nonsense,' 33.374) pertaining to talking nonsense—'one who talks nonsense, gossipy.'

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains

1 Timothy 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also **gossips** and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

I Don't Mean To GOSSIP . . . But . . .

THE TONGUE IS DANGEROUS

James 3:1–12 (NKJV)

¹ My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ³ Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. ⁴ Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires.

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THE TONGUE IS DANGEROUS

James 3:1–12 (NKJV)

⁵ Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! ⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.

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THE TONGUE IS DANGEROUS

James 3:1–12 (NKJV)

⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹²

Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** . . . But . . .
THE TONGUE IS DANGEROUS



- ▶ Tremendous Power For Both Good & Evil – *(But Most Often Is The Cause of Big Problems)* – James 3:1-6
- ▶ Is Never Fully Tamed – James 3:7-8
- ▶ Reflects What Is In The Heart – James 3:9-12

I Don't Mean To GOSSIP . . . But . . .

GOSSIP IS DESTRUCTIVE & SINFUL



- ▶ Like poison -
(Jas. 3:8)
- ▶ A Destructive Fire -
(Jas. 3:6)
- ▶ Destroy neighbors -
(Prov. 11:9)
- ▶ Reveal secrets -
(Prov. 11:13; 20:19)
- ▶ Sows strife -
(Prov. 16:28)

I Don't Mean To GOSSIP . . . But . . .

GOSSIP IS DESTRUCTIVE & SINFUL



- ▶ Can destroy a persons good name – Prov. 22:1
- ▶ Can sever close friendships – Prov. 16:28; 17:9
- ▶ Can destroy a happy home – Prov. 18:8
- ▶ Can destroy peaceful, loving, working, growing churches – Gal. 5:15; 2 Cor. 12:20

I Don't Mean To GOSSIP . . . But . . .

GOSSIP IS DESTRUCTIVE & SINFUL



- ▶ We must not complain & grumble about other people — Prov 18:8; 26:20
- ▶ Spreading harmful rumors, innuendo's or even facts about others is sinful — Prov 11:13; 20:19; Rom 1:29; 1 Tim 3:11; 2 Tim 3:3

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GOSSIP IS DESTRUCTIVE & SINFUL



- ▶ Gossip is the betrayal of a confidence.
- ▶ When we spread secrets or information (*whether true or false*), which damages another person's reputation with those who have no need to know - we have sinned!

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THE MAKING OF A GOSSIP



- ▶ Idleness - 1 Tim. 5:13
- ▶ Thoughtlessness - Phil. 2:4
- ▶ Cowardice - Mat. 18:15
- ▶ Jealousy & Envy - 1 Cor. 3:3
- ▶ Hatred - Ps. 109:3; Prov. 10:12
- ▶ Unjust Anger - Prov. 15:18; 29:22
- ▶ Discontent - Exo. 16:2;
1 Cor. 10:10

I Don't Mean To **GOSSIP** *... But ...*

QUESTIONS To Ask **BEFORE** *WE SPEAK*



- ▶ Is it true and complete?
- ▶ Is it harmful or helpful?
- ▶ Does it ignite evil suspicion or inspire solutions?
- ▶ Is it necessary?

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QUESTIONS To Ask **BEFORE** *WE SPEAK*



► It Is Not Sin To:

- Repeat good things. – Mat. 11:4; Rom. 1:8
- Talk about how we can help a particular person – Col. 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11;
- Tell the necessary & qualified people about another's sin if you have went to the sinner first and they did not receive you. – Matt 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1 (*trying to help, not harm*)
- Warn others about one's impenitent evil character – Mat 23; Eph 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:10, 14,15; 3 John 1:9,10
- To expose those who publicly teach false doctrine – Luke 12:1; Rom. 16:17; 2 Tim. 2:17

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



- ▶ Don't be a gossip – “Bridle your tongue” – James 1:26; Ps. 39:1; Prov. 21:23
- ▶ Don't listen to gossip – Quench demand by not taking up a reproach against your neighbor” – Ps. 15:3; James 4:11; 5:9; Prov. 17:4; 11:13
- ▶ Don't keep company with gossipers – 2 Thes 3:11-14
- ▶ Correct the gossip – 2 Tim 2:25

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



- ▶ **PURIFY** our hearts - Luke 6:45
- ▶ **LOVE** one another - 1 Pet 1:22; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Prov. 17:9
- ▶ **THINK** right - Phil 4:8,9; Rom 12:1,2; Col. 3:1-3
- ▶ **CONTROL** our words - Prov. 17:27; 10:19; 1 Cor. 9:27; Jam 3:2-4

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



Psalm 39:1 (NKJV)

¹ I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me."

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



Psalm 141:3 (NKJV)
3 Set a guard, O Lord,
over my mouth; Keep
watch over the door
of my lips.

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



James 1:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless.

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP

Matthew 12:33–37 (NKJV)

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by *its* fruit.

³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



Do we need to work harder
at being careful about


What we say?

How we say it?

To whom we say it?

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HOW TO STOP GOSSIP



Do we need to repent of how
we speak of & to others?

Confess!
Repent!
Obey the Lord!

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Charts by Don McClain / Preached September 17, 2017

West 65th Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062 / Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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