

THE SIN EVERYONE COMMITS, BUT FEW TALK ABOUT

Three ministers were in a life raft adrift at sea (a place some would like to have many ministers). Because they weren't sure of being rescued, the *holy* trio confessed their sins to one another. The first minister admitted to embezzling church funds. The next revealed several adulterous relationships. "Brothers, my biggest problem is gossiping," said the third. "I sure hope we get rescued."

We preachers tend to be among the worst tattlers. Lively gossiping often occurred at meetings and conferences I attended. Ministers should know better. The first chapter, of the *Book of Romans* describes some of the worst sins of humanity, stating: **"those who do such things deserve death."** Gossips rank among leaders in this list.

Is gossiping really that bad? It's deadlier than high penetration bombs and crueller than nuclear weapons. In harming human psyches, tale bearing exceeds the damage done by tobacco, drugs, and alcohol combined. Who among us hasn't suffered its effects? Yet most of babble. Shouldn't *facts* be told? Media people seem to think so. Otherwise, how can they justify their existence. The Lord will judge them.

Yet God holds believers to a different standard. Most important, we must speak **"the truth in love."** Before we tell something about another, we test ourselves three ways. First, do we say this to demean that person in the eyes of others? Second, are we doing this to promote our own image? Third, is saying this making the best use of our time? Jesus warned us that we shall have to **"give an account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word"** we have spoken, ***Matthew 12:36***. With that this article ends.



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