



The Evil Of Gossip

*We must be so very careful when talking
about others.*

INTRODUCTION

- Sister Suspicion went over to see Mrs. Critic the other day and said, "Brother Bob has really been flirting with the women here lately. It would not surprise me if he has been stepping out on his wife."

INTRODUCTION

- As soon as their vain conversation was over, Mrs. Critic raced over to see Sister Exaggerated, and during the course of their gossip, Mrs. Critic said, "By the way, do you know that some people think that Brother Bob's been stepping out on his wife?"

INTRODUCTION

- "You don't mean to say!" replied Sister Exaggerated. "That's what they tell me!" Mrs. Critic said.
- Now, by the time Sister Exaggerated put the finishing touch on this scandal, brother Bob had the reputation of stepping out on his wife!

INTRODUCTION

- And Bob soon discovered that he had been doing things that he didn't do!

Gossip

Gossip: noun

1. Rumor or talk of a personal, sensational, or intimate nature.
2. A person who habitually spreads intimate or private rumors or facts.



Gossip

3. Trivial, chatty talk or writing.

Synonyms: gossip, blab, tattle.

The central meaning shared by these verbs is "to engage in or communicate idle, indiscreet talk":



Gossip

gossiping about the neighbors'
domestic problems;
can't be trusted with a secret--
he always blabs;
is disliked by her classmates
for tattling on mischief
makers. The American
Heritage Dictionary of the
English Language, Third
Edition



GOSSIP

Idle Word. Word that does nothing; neither ministers grace nor instruction to them who hear it. Not only does it signify vain and empty words, but also wicked and injurious, such as false testimony against a neighbor.

GOSSIP

Slander: (slander)noun

1. Law. Oral communication of false statements injurious to a person's reputation.

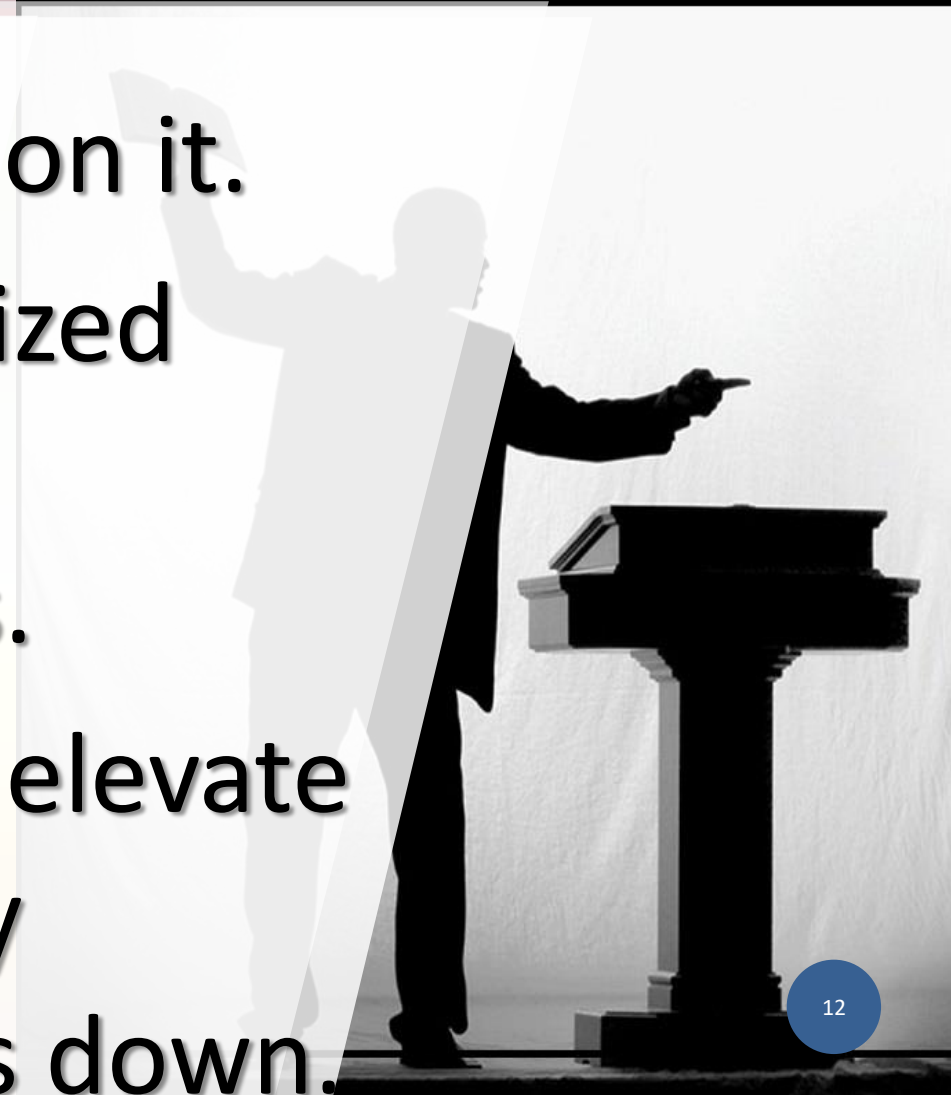
2. A false and malicious statement or report about someone. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition

GOSSIP

It is a falsehood or unproven rumor maliciously told for the purpose of injuring the *influence* or *reputation* of another. Slander is a **DOUBLE SIN**: Hatred in the heart and a lie on the tongue.

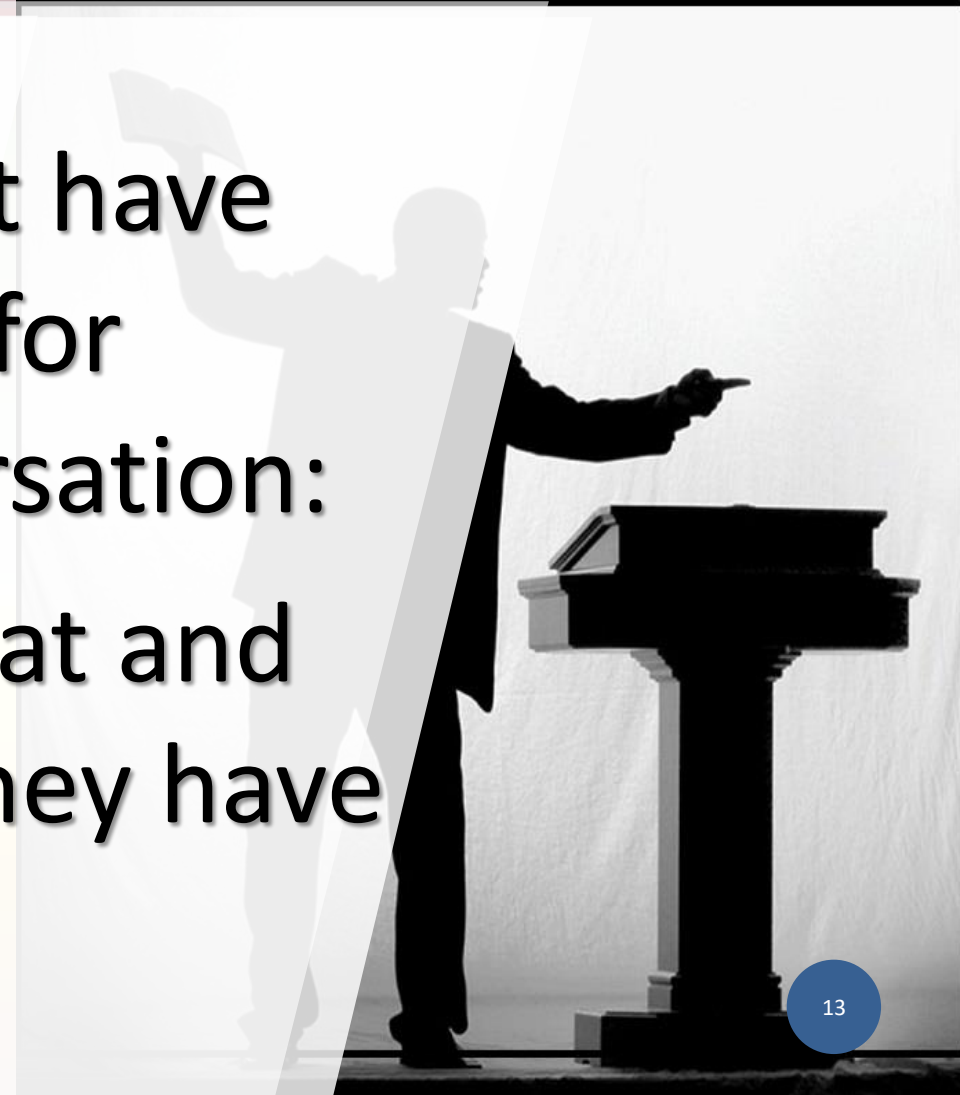
WHY THERE IS SO MUCH GOSSIP?

- No preaching on it.
- It is a rationalized form of self-righteousness.
- Some seek to elevate themselves by putting others down.



WHY THERE IS SO MUCH GOSSIP?

- Gossips do not have the mentality for serious conversation:
- They just repeat and add to what they have heard.



WHY THERE IS SO MUCH GOSSIP?

- Probably all of us like to hear ourselves talk.
- Men tell dirty jokes; women gossip. And vice-versa.
- One as bad as other - all are **idle words**





Gossip

- Preacher reported to have been in motel with another woman!
- It was his wife who had gained or lost weight, or changed her hair color.
- Man reported to be in beer joint with "some woman"



Gossip

- He was in another state at the time!
- Lindale Texas, same man shows up to church two times and introduces a different wife each time.
- Truth: My dad with his family, and his twin brother with his family.

WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?

The only time I need to report any actual evil of someone is when I'm seeking information as to how to help the person involved (it is best to go to the one involved and talk to them about whatever it is before talking to others about it)

WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?

Anyone who will gossip to me about you will gossip to you or someone else about me!

Do you know people that make you wonder what they are saying about you when you leave their presence?

What The Bible Says

- **Leviticus 19:16** 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, ... I am the LORD.
- **Psalms 50:20** "You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son.

What The Bible Says

- **Proverbs 11:13** He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.
- **Proverbs 20:19** He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip.

What The Bible Says

- (KJV He that goeth about *as* a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.)

What The Bible Says

- **Ezekiel 22:9** "Slanderos men have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood,..."

What The Bible Says

- **Psalms 15:1-3** O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

What The Bible Says

- **Proverbs 16:28** A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
(KJV A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.)

What The Bible Says

- **Proverbs 17:9** ...he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.
- **Proverbs 18:8** The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- **Proverbs 26:20-22** For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- **Prov.6:16-19** There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- **James 4:11** Do not speak against one another, brethren....
- **1 Peter 2:1** Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- **2 Corinthians 12:20** For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps *there may be* strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

- **Romans 1:29-31** being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

Gossip



Ask three questions before repeating a story:

1. Is it true?
2. If it is true, will it do any good to tell it?
3. If I tell it, will it help the person?

Gossip



A Quotation by many wise people:

"If you can't say something good about a person, don't say anything at all."

Conclusion

- We will be judged by our words and our deeds.
- **Matthew 12:36-37** “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
- Are you guilty of gossip?
- If so, you are guilty of a sin that God hates and something that has hurt others.
- Repent before it is too late.