

TC Ministries

Equipping the Church for the Work of Ministry

Dealing with ... **GOSSIP and DIVISION**

What Christians Believe Series

Tony Case



The line between
Gossip and Division
is very thin



How should the
church address
the issue of Gossip?



How to avoid
becoming a
divisive gossip?



How to build unity
and strengthen
relationships in
the Body of Christ?



If you want to know more
about this topic, or have any
questions about the Christian faith:

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DEFINING GOSSIP

The Cambridge Dictionary defines 'gossip' as:

“Conversation or reports about other people's private lives that might be unkind, disapproving, or untrue”

It further goes on to disrobe a 'gossip' as:

“Someone who enjoys talking about other people and their private lives”

The same dictionary defines 'divisive' as:

“Causing people to be split into groups that disagree with or oppose each other”

Divisive is an adjective related to the word divide, or division.

Christian Behaviour

Gossip is a serious problem for many, and the church is no different. Not addressing this topic can lead to division and much upset at times.

Our behaviour as Christians, and the way we choose to live our lives ethically and morally, depends much upon our particular world view, cultural background, past experience and present understanding of God's Word. The last is an important deciding factor that ultimately determines the quality of our Christian walk, and represents the foundational standards we choose for our life.

We can easily fall into temptation and sin if our experience and understanding of how God would have us behave in relation to what we say and who we share confidences with is lacking in some way. James calls the tongue a “restless evil”:

“No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so” (James 3:8-10)

The Power of the Tongue

Words have power. One of the most misunderstood and perhaps undisciplined areas of church life today is in the area of the tongue. The Bible tells us that we all stumble in many ways, but if we can control our tongue then God considers us almost perfect (James 3:2). What an astonishing statement! So controlling our tongue is directly linked to Godly abundantly blessing our lives!

You see, our tongue controls our whole being, so if we control the tongue we pretty much control everything else as well:

“For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. Now if we put bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well. Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire” (James 3:2-5)