

## IS GOSSIPING YOUR THING?

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The dictionary defines gossip as chatty talk or a casual conversation about another involving information not confirmed as true. The origin of the comes from the Old English term *godsibb*, meaning godparent but was later extended to word gossip, to describe what we know it as now. The Bible repeatedly expresses God's disapproval for gossip. Proverbs 16:28 says, "A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends." Proverbs 20:19 says, "The one who goes about gossiping reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with someone who is always opening his mouth." Proverbs 26:22 says, "The words of a gossip are like wounds; they go down to the innermost parts of the belly." What is it with gossip? Why does God hate gossip so much, and why was it such a point of topic in the Ancient Near East. God hates gossip for several reasons.

- Above all, your gossip may not be true, which is already a problem of spreading lies. The ninth commandment in Exodus 20:16 tells us to "not give false testimony against your neighbor." Exodus 23:1 is just like it, urging us to "not spread false reports." Proverbs 6:16 lists seven things that are detestable to the Lord, with lying being one of them.
- It causes you to see the speck in your neighbor's eye instead of focusing on the log in ours (see Matthew 7:3).
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us to "keep busy always in your work for the Lord," and God leaves us too busy to be worried about other people's lives
- Ephesians 5:1 tells us to "be imitators of God," and God does not gossip.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:11 tells us to "mind our own business."
- Philippians 4:8 tells us, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is praiseworthy – think about such things." Let's face it: Gossiping is usually not "juicy" unless it involves drama, so it usually involves the opposite of everything Paul listed in this Scripture to the Philippians. What we meditate on is what anchors us. Where we ponder is where we position ourselves, and gossiping about another person's drama is not where we need to position ourselves.

Life can serve us well when we spend our time focusing on things we need to focus on rather than other people's alleged drama. God knows the plans He has for you, plans to prosper you. He wants to see His plans for our lives take shape with no interference from reports of other people's drama. So, let's choose this day to place our focus on God's Reports rather than gossip reports. I pray that grace over gossip will fill your hearts and spirits and that the presence of God in your lives will be so strong that the presence of gossip will have no vacancy in your minds. I pray that, in the absence of gossip, God will reveal and release supernatural favor over you – favor that will confirm His love and presence in your life while confusing the enemy. You deserve more, and I am praying that more over you. It is Jesus Name, so shall it be. Grace and peace be with you.