

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification..."

**Ephesians 4:29**

"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,  
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter."

**Proverbs 11:13**

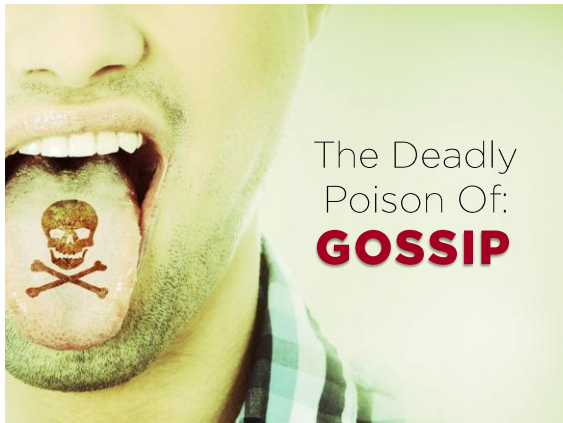
"He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets,  
Therefore do not associate with a gossip."

**Proverbs 20:19**



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The Deadly  
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## Matthew 12:36-37

But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.



### 1) What Is It?

A. Culture Says: "information about the behavior and personal lives of other people"  
(Merriam Webster)

B. Gossip VS. Sharing Information

1) Intent (Prov. 11:13; 20:19; 17:4)

"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,  
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter."

**Proverbs 11:13 (20:19)**

"An evildoer listens to wicked lips;  
A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue."

**Proverbs 17:4**



## 1) What Is It?

A. Culture Says: "information about the behavior and personal lives of other people" (Merriam Webster)

B. Gossip VS. Sharing Information

- 1) Intent (Prov. 11:13; 20:19)
- 2) Type of Information Shared (1 Tim. 5:13; Prov. 18:8)

"At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention."

**1 Timothy 5:13**

"The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body."

**Proverbs 18:8**



## 2) Dangers?

A. It Hurts Others (Prov. 20:19; Jas. 3:5,8-10)

"He who goes about as a **slanderer** reveals secrets, Therefore do not associate with a gossip." 20:19

"Tale-bearing emits a threefold poison; for it injures the **teller**, the **hearer**, and the **person concerning whom the tale is told**." (Charles Spurgeon)



## 2) Dangers?

B. Hurts Friendships (Prov. 17:9; 16:28)

"He who conceals a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends." 17:9

"A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends." 16:28



## 2) Dangers?

C. Creates Strife (Prov. 16:27; 26:20-21; 25:23)

"A worthless man digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire." 16:27

"For lack of wood the fire goes out, And where there is no whisperer, contention quiets down. <sup>21</sup> Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire. So is a contentious man to kindle strife." 26:20-21




## 2) Dangers?

D. It Ensnares (Prov. 18:7)

"A fool's mouth is his ruin, And his lips are the snare **{trap}** of his soul." 18:7

E. Discourages The Saints (Romans 16:17; Prov. 6:16-19)

"Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them." Rom. 16:17




### 3) Remedies

A. Start With Yourself

- 1) Correct Your Mind (Phil 4:8-9)

*“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”<sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*



### 3) Remedies

A. Start With Yourself

- 2) Purify Your Heart (Lk. 6:45; 1 Pt. 1:22)

*“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”*

Luke 6:45




### 3) Remedies

A. Start With Yourself

- 3) Put On Love (Mat. 22:36-40; Jn. 13:35)

*“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* John 13:35



### 3) Remedies

A. Start With Yourself

B. Learn How To Measure Self (2 Cor. 10:12)


C. Get To Work (1 Tim. 5:13-15; Rom. 13:11-14)

D. Control Yourself (Prov. 17:27; 18:8; 10:19; 21:23)

*“The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels...”*  
**Proverbs 18:8**

*“He who restrains his words has knowledge...”*  
**Proverbs 17:27**

*“He who guards his mouth and his tongue,  
 Guards his soul from troubles.”*  
**Proverbs 21:23**



### 3) Remedies

E. Ask Yourself Some Questions:

- 1) Why do I want to tell it?
- 2) Do I know that it is true?
- 3) Am I telling the right person (Mt. 18:15-17)

## **Psalm 141:3-4**

(A Prayer of David)

**Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
Keep watch over the door of my lips.**

**<sup>4</sup>Do not incline my heart to any evil  
thing,**

**To practice deeds of wickedness**

**With men who do iniquity;**

**And do not let me eat of their  
delicacies.**



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