

## WHO Does Gossip Hurt?

**a) Gossip hurts the \_\_\_\_\_ it's \_\_\_\_\_ about.:**  
<sup>27</sup> Scoundrels create trouble; their words are a destructive blaze. <sup>28</sup> A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.  
 Proverbs 16:27-28  
*(cp. Psalm 69:12)*

**b) Gossip hurts the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.  
 Proverbs 20:19 (NLT)

**c) Gossip hurts the \_\_\_\_\_.**  
<sup>9</sup> When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. <sup>10</sup> Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation.  
 Proverbs 25:9-10

**d) Gossip disgusts \_\_\_\_\_.**  
 "Do not spread slanderous **gossip** among your people. "Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is threatened. I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:16  
*(cp. Proverbs 6:16-19)*

They visit me as if they were my friends, but all the while they gather gossip, and when they leave, they spread it everywhere. Psalm 41:6 (NLT)

A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence. Proverbs 11:13 (NLT)

◆ **Rākīl (raw-keel'):** \_\_\_\_\_

And if they are on the list, they will learn to be lazy and will spend their time gossiping from house to house, meddling in other people's business and talking about things they shouldn't. 1 Timothy 5:13 (NLT)

◆ **Phlyaros (floo'-ar-os):** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>20</sup> For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. 2 Corinthians 12:20

◆ **Psithyrismos (psith-oo-ris-mos'):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gossip: Sharing \_\_\_\_\_ information, either public or private, about others without their \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"When we're talking about a situation with somebody who's neither part of the problem or part of the solution, then we're probably gossiping."*  
 Rick Warren

**WHY do we engage in Gossip?**  
 (Proverbs 18:8)

It's \_\_\_\_\_

It's \_\_\_\_\_

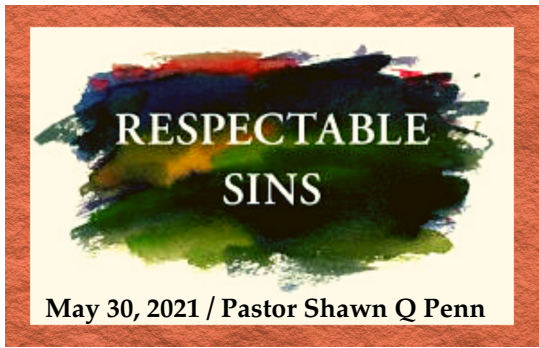
## HOW to Overcome the Sin of Gossip

Learn to Ask yourself:

**1. Is my conversation \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?**  
 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is only what is helpful for building others up. Ephesians 4:29

**2. Am I making \_\_\_\_\_ matters \_\_\_\_\_?**  
<sup>12</sup> Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. <sup>13</sup> A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. Proverbs 11:12-13

**3. Am I \_\_\_\_\_ Others to Gossip?**  
 Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander. Proverbs 17:4



### **Discussion Questions**

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message?
2. What causes you to participate in gossip? Share a time when you were affected by gossip. How did it make you feel? In what situations do you find yourself gossiping the most?
3. Prior to Sunday’s message, how did you view gossip? How did Pastor’s Shawn description of gossip reinforce or challenge your understanding?
4. Select 3-4 verses Pastor Shawn used in Sunday’s message and discuss what those verses mean.
5. Evaluate yourself. Do you find yourself engaging more in conversations that are helpful or hurtful?
6. Of the suggestions Pastor Shawn offered for overcoming the sin of gossip, which one(s) do you need to work on? What steps do you need to take to overcome the sin of gossip?
7. Who do you need to speak life-giving words to this week? How and when will you do it? Is there anyone you’ve hurt with gossip? How will you make it right?
8. Read Matthew 12:33-37 and Psalm 19:14. How is gossip related to our heart? Based on this, what is the best remedy for gossip? What do you need to do to transform your heart? How may your group help you?