

I Don't Mean to Gossip, But...

Galatians 4:6

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Evil of Gossip - LE 19:16; 2 TH 3:11; RO 1:30; PR 10:18; 2 CO 12:20; 1 TI 6:4; PR 20:19; 1 TH 5:13.
1. LE 19:16 - "talebearer" - Strong's Hebrew #7400 - [*rakiyl /raw-keel/*] "1 slander, slanderer, tale bearer, informer."
 2. 2 TH 3:11 - "busybodies" - Strong's Greek #4020 - περιεργάζομαι [*periergazomai /per-ee-er-gad-zom-ah-ee/*] "1 to bustle about uselessly, to busy one's self about trifling, needless, useless matters. 1a used apparently of a person officiously inquisitive about other's affairs."
 3. RO 1:30, 32 - "backbiters" - Strong's Greek #2637 - κατάλαλος [*katalalos /kat-al-al-os/*] "1 a defamer, evil speaker."
 4. PR 10:18 - "slander" - Strong's Hebrew #1681 - [*dibbah /dib-baw/*] "1 whispering, defamation, evil report. 1a whispering. 1b defamation, defaming. 1c evil report, unfavourable saying."
 5. 2 CO 12:20 - "backbitings" - 2636 καταλαλιά [*katalalia /kat-al-al-ee-ah/*] "1 defamation, evil speaking." "whisperings" - Strong's Greek #5587 [*psithurismos /psith-oo-ris-mos/*] "1 a whispering, i.e. secret slandering. 2 of the magical murmuring of a charmer of snakes."
 6. 1 TI 6:3-4 - "evil surmisings" - evil - Strong's Greek #4190 - πονηρός [*poneros /pon-ay-ros/*] "1 full of labours, annoyances, hardships. 1a pressed and harassed by labours. 1b bringing toils, annoyances, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble. 2 bad, of a bad nature or condition. 2a in a physical sense: diseased or blind. 2b in an ethical sense: evil wicked, bad." surmisings - Strong's #5283 - [*huponoia /hoop-on-oy-ah/*] "1 a surmising."
 7. PR 20:19 - "revealeth" - Strong's Hebrew #1540 - [*galah /gaw-law/*] "1 to uncover, remove. 1a (Qal). 1a1 to uncover. 1a2 to remove, depart. 1a3 to go into exile. ..." "secrets" - Strong's Hebrew #5475 - [*cowd /sode/*] "1a council (of familiar conversation)..."
 8. 1 TI 5:13 - "tattlers" - Strong's Greek #5397 - φλύαρος [*phluaros /floo-ar-os/*] "1 of persons uttering or doing silly things, garrulous, babbling. 2 of things, foolish, trifling, vain."
- B. You may quickly agree that gossip is a sin, but are you guilty of redefining terms, making excuses and calling your evil words good? (cf. Isa. 5:20)
- C. Let us look at the common reasons people use to falsely justify gossip!

DISCUSSION

I. COMMON REASON NUMBER 1 – THE BLATANT DENIAL.

- A. "I Don't Mean to Gossip, But..."
1. Putting a Disclaimer on it does not change what it is.
 2. Example: "I don't mean to steal, but... (Doesn't excuse the thief).
 3. Example: "I don't mean to kill, but... (Doesn't excuse the murderer).
- B. 1 TI 5:13; ML 3:13-15.

II. COMMON REASON NUMBER 2 – THE SECRET PACT.

- A. "Promise not to tell anyone... Can you keep a secret?"
- B. The whisperer does his work in secret because he knows he is doing something shameful and wrong.
- C. Proverbs 16:28; John 3:19-20.

III. COMMON REASON NUMBER 3 – THE TRUTH EXCUSE.

- A. "But what I'm saying is true!"
 - B. Even if the tidbit is true, there is no justification for spreading it if it will tear someone down, cast evil suspicion, or cause some to revel in the personal problems of others.
 - C. 2 CO 2:6-7; MT 18:15
- IV. COMMON REASON NUMBER 4 – THE PRAISE DIVERSION.
- A. "He's a nice guy, but did you know?"
 - B. Do you try to offset your gossip by throwing in some nice compliment with it?
 - C. "He is an excellent Bible student, but did you hear about the problems he is having with his wife?"
 - D. Proverbs 20:19; Psalm 12:2-3.
- V. COMMON REASON NUMBER 5 – THE ENEMY LICENSE.
- A. "But he did me wrong!"
 - B. Some believe the rules against gossip do not apply to their enemies.
 - C. God said to return evil with Good!
 - D. Titus 3:2; 1 Thess. 5:15; Matthew 5:44-45.
- VI. COMMON REASON NUMBER 6 – THE COUNSELOR PRIVILEGE.
- A. "I was just seeking counsel."
 - B. The scriptures teach that the wise man will seek counsel PR 11:4.
 - C. It is a blessing to be able to go to a respected brother for advice about a difficult situation
 - D. However, we must not allow a "counseling" session to become a gossip session!
- CONCLUSION
- A. Are you guilty of using any of these excuses to justify your gossip?
 - B. Note the following Scriptures.
 - 1. LK 16:15.
 - 2. EP 4:29.