



## Scriptures and Doctrine :: What does the bible say about "gossip" ?

### What does the bible say about "gossip" ?, on: 2016/3/21 0:06

Dictionary Definition:

gos-sip

noun: gossip

1. casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true.

Synonyms: rumor(s), tittle-tattle, whispers, canards, tidbits; scandal, hearsay; informal dirt, buzz, scuttlebutt

2. derogatory: a person who likes talking about other people's private lives.

Extracts from [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

...the Hebrew word translated "gossip" in the Old Testament is defined as "one who reveals secrets, one who goes about as a talebearer or scandal-monger." A gossip is a person who has privileged information about people and proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it.

Gossipers speak of the faults and failings of others, or reveal potentially embarrassing or shameful details regarding the lives of others without their knowledge or approval. Even if they mean no harm, it is still gossip.

In the book of Romans, Paul reveals the sinful nature and lawlessness of mankind, stating how God poured out His wrath on those who rejected His laws. Because they had turned away from God's instruction and guidance, He gave them over to their sinful natures. The list of sins includes gossips and slanderers (Romans 1:29b-32). We see from this passage how serious the sin of gossip is and that it characterizes those who are under God's wrath.

The book of Proverbs has a long list of verses that cover the dangers of gossip and the potential hurt that results from it. "A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret" (Proverbs 11:12-13).

The Bible tells us that "a perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends" (Proverbs 16:28). Many a friendship has been ruined over a misunderstanding that started with gossip. Those who engage in this behavior do nothing but stir up trouble and cause anger, bitterness, and pain among friends. Sadly, some people thrive on this and look for opportunities to destroy others. And when such people are confronted, they deny the allegations and answer with excuses and rationalizations. Rather than admit wrongdoing, they blame someone else or attempt to minimize the seriousness of the sin. "A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are a snare to his soul. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts" (Proverbs 18:7-8).

Those who guard their tongues keep themselves from calamity (Proverbs 21:23). So we must guard our tongues and refrain from the sinful act of gossip. If we surrender our natural desires to the Lord, He will help us to remain righteous. May we all follow the Bible's teaching on gossip by keeping our mouths shut unless it is necessary and appropriate to speak.

### Re: What does the bible say about "gossip" ? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2016/3/21 7:17

Amen brother.

I wanted to add this... Just because it's gossip doesn't mean it's a woman doing it. I've heard "Christian" men at work and learned they can be as cruel as women.

God bless you for posting this!!

Lisa

**Re: , on: 2016/3/21 10:45**

Blessings sister,

I'm glad I'm not the only one who thinks that it is important to remember exactly what constitutes gossip. With the ubiquitous use of social media in our lives I believe that the lines have become blurred for Christians and we need to be very careful.

Our outrage at the alleged sins of others can bring even worse condemnation on us if we stray into gossip and rumor mongering.

Social media/internet plus an idle mind...that is a recipe for disaster:-)

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2016/3/21 10:54**

Greetings Mark

This topic has been on my heart of late. I am finding more and more the news I read overall seems to border on gossip. I will agree with you it is difficult with the internet/social media to distinguish what is and is not gossip.

Things to be praying about for sure.

God bless  
maryjane

**Re: , on: 2016/3/21 11:13**

Hi sister MaryJane,

I used to have an active facebook page but one of the reasons I shut it down was because about 90% of the so called "news" stories that christians posted were nothing more than gossip. And I know my own weaknesses and how easy it is to get sucked into these scandalous, juicy stories. So I left facebook to help me focus on other more edifying things.