

ADDRESSING GOSSIP

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN THE CHURCH

MESSAGE SERIES

PRECEPT

ROMANS 1:28-29

²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. ²⁹ Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarrelling, deception, malicious behaviour, and gossip.

PROMISE

The truth about gossip is that it breaks relationships, trust, and the hearts of the people being talked about. It can cause anxiety and frustration for some people. In worst cases, it causes depression, suicidal thoughts, eating disorders, and other negative effects. Gossip is when we say anything negative about the other person who is not present to anybody who is neither part of the problem nor the solution. This means if you are personally involved in the problem but you are sharing it with another person who is not personally involved at the cost of the other person, that is gossip. Also, if you are not personally involved in the problem or the solution and you talk about it with another person/s who is not personally involved, that is gossip as well. Whether we admit it or not, we have all participated in gossip before. The sad truth is, gossip is so destructive yet socially accepted. The Bible even says in Proverbs 18:8, *"There's nothing so delicious as the taste of gossip! It melts in your mouth."* God condemns every kind of wickedness, evil deeds, or any kind of sin, and He is clear in His Word how we should stay away from gossip. Gossip will not only break our relationship with people, but it will primarily break our relationship with God. In result, gossiping will rob our joy, peace, and satisfaction. It will cause frustrations, depression, and will ruin our lives and our relationships. As followers of Christ, we should model not to be involved in whatever shape or form of gossip. We should T.H.I.N.K. before we talk or even listen to gossip.

TRUTHFUL. Proverbs 12:17 says, *"Whoever speaks the truth declares what is right, but a false witness speaks deceit."* Assess if it is the whole truth and nothing but the truth, or is it twisted truth or your version of the truth? Even if you know it's the truth but if the person/s involved is/are not present, we should not talk about it, for that is still gossiping.

HELPFUL. Ephesians 4:29 reminds us, *"Stop all your dirty talk. Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say."* When we talk about others, it should build them up and our words must be a blessing to those who listens to us.

INSPIRATIONAL. 2 Timothy 2:16 commands us, *"Keep away from worthless and useless talk. It only leads people farther away from God."* If it is going to discourage and dishearten people, then don't talk about it.

NECESSARY. Some words may be true but unnecessary to say. There's nothing wrong with telling people about it, they're not just necessary. So let's be careful, and remember, less words, less trouble. Proverbs 21:23 reveals, *"If you want to stay out of trouble, be careful what you say."*

KIND. Love is kind, so assess if the words you're going to say is loving, respectful, and kind. In Titus 3:2 it says, *"Believers shouldn't curse anyone or be quarrelsome. They should be gentle and kind to everyone."*

Let us be reminded of these passages in Proverbs telling us some wisdom about gossip. 17:4 says, *"Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander."* 20:19 also says, *"A gossip reveals a secret. Stay away from people who talk too much."* Let us glorify our God by not engaging to any form of gossip!

PRACTICE

1. Think Before You Speak. Are you a person who thinks before speaking, or do you have a tendency to just blurt stuff out? How will you improve in this area?

2. Make It Right. Is there someone you need to apologize to this week for careless use of your words? How can you make it right?

PRAYER

I. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum and Fabregas.

II. Downtown Life Connections

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they lead the Downtown groups. Pray that more people in this area will be reached out.

III. Relationships

- Pray for transparent, meaningful relationships among our brethren and other people.

IV. Community

- Pray for our community to be loving and caring genuinely to one another.

V. Giving

- Pray that giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.

VI. Love

- Pray that the body of Christ would faithfully show love to a hurting world in His Name.

VII. God's Glory

- Pray that the Lord shines His light in us, through us, and over us for His glory and purposes.