

Sticks and Stones
How To Put An End To Gossip

1. Change our _____

Romans 1:29 *They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters...*

a) Gossip _____

Proverbs 11:9 *Dishonest people use gossip to destroy their neighbors...*

b) Gossip creates _____

Proverbs 26:20 *Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down.*

c) Gossip _____

John 8:26 *For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.*

d) Gossip _____

Psalms 50:20 *...you sat around gossiping, ruining the reputation of your own relatives.*

2. _____

a) Make a commitment to _____

Psalms 15:2 *Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.*

- I will not repeat rumors about people
- I will keep private matters private
- I will say NOTHING bad about anyone for 30 days

b) Don't participate; _____

c) Avoid _____

Proverbs 20:19 *A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.*

d) Never _____ based on gossip

Proverbs 18:17 *In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines.*

"When we are talking about a situation with somebody who is neither part of the problem nor part of the solution, then we are probably gossiping." Rick Warren

"Gossip occurs in two ways — when we speak that which is untrue or hearsay, and when we speak the truth but violate a private communication or confidentiality." Author Unknown

Ways To Challenge Gossip

1. Direct: "Why are you telling me this?"
2. Constructive: "Now, how can we help this person?"
3. Subtle: Smile sweetly & say, "I'm feeling very uncomfortable with this conversation."
4. Matthew 18:15: "Have you gone to speak with this person privately?"
5. Concerned: "If _____ knew we were talking about them like this they'd be real hurt!"
6. Turn it positive! "You know, what I like most about [that person] is. . ."

Proverbs 16:28 *A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.*

Proverbs 16:28 *...a whisperer separates the best of friends.*

Proverbs 18:21 *The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.*

Proverbs 20:19 *Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babblers.*

Psalms 101:5 *Anyone who spreads gossip will be silenced...*