

Listen to This
#3: How To Put An End To Gossip In Us

1. Develop _____ on gossip

Key: _____

Romans 1:29-30 *They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil...*

2. _____

a) _____

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

b) Limit _____ the gossip

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

c) _____

Proverbs 11:13 *A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.*

d) Start _____

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*

3. Process gossip correctly

a) Don't _____

Proverbs 26:22 *Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.*

b) Don't _____

c) Never _____ based on gossip

Proverbs 16:28 *A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*

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Questions to answer

1. Am I quick to believe the negative reports of someone I do not know?
2. Did I ever spread a wrong information?
3. Will I be curious to know the personal private facts of others?
4. Will I encourage someone who gossips to me?
5. Am I quick to judge others based on the information I received?
6. Do I seek information from all parties before believing the report?

We should ask ourselves the following questions before speaking:

1. Can the person I'm talking to help the situation?
2. Would I say this if the person was here? The person's mother?
The person's child?
3. Am I assuming to know the whole story when I only know part of the story?
4. If I was in the other person's shoes, what would I want said about me?
5. If I'm speaking to someone who isn't involved in the situation, am I seeking advice for my own action or am I degrading another person?

We should ask another person the following questions before listening:

1. Have you spoken with the person regarding this issue?
2. How can this conversation help the situation?
3. Is there more to the story than you realize?
4. Are you giving the other person the kindness you would want to receive?
5. Are you acting in a loving manner toward the person?

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Proverbs 11:13

A **gossip** goes around spreading rumors, while a trustworthy man tries to quiet them.

Leviticus 19:16

“Don’t **gossip**.

But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. Matt 12:36, 37

Proverbs has some pretty specific things to say about gossip;

Proverbs 11:13 says;

*A gossip goes around telling secrets,
but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.*

Proverbs 20:19 says;

*A gossip goes around telling secrets,
so don’t hang around with chatterers.*

Proverbs 26:20 says;

*Fire goes out without wood,
and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.*

Proverbs is 18:21

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

Psalms 15:3

Anyone who refuses to slander others, does not listen to **gossip**, never harms his neighbor,

Ephesians 4:29 on the subject of encouragement:

- “Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”
- “A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.” Proverbs 11:13 NLT

- “A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.” Proverbs 16:28 NLT