

Go SSip from
The Tree of Knowledge
of Good and Evil

Genesis 3:1-7

Proverbs 18:8; 26:22



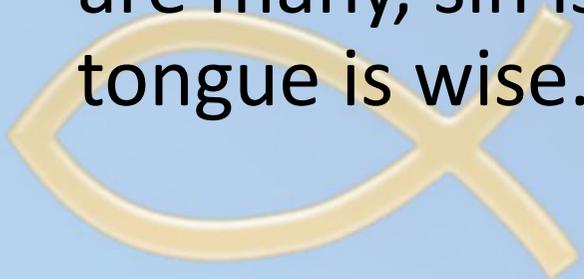
Gossip

- Gossip is everywhere, after all we are an information society!
- Gossip is experienced by all and is hard to resist for is sweet like a Toll House Morsel!
- What is and isn't gossip is hard to define. When does small talk become sinful talk?
- What makes it wrong? When its said? To whom its said? Who is saying it? Is it always a lie?
- **INFORMATION** gives us the illusion of **CONTROL** – but in the end the information controls us.

“The sin of gossip: bearing bad news behind someone’s back out of a bad heart.”

1. Bearing Bad News

- **Gossip is a matter of talk – both listening and talking.** Proverbs 20:19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much. (T)
- Proverbs 17:4 (NLT) Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander. (L)
- **Gossip and “techability”** Proverbs 10:19 “When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.”



Bad News Comes in Three Ways and is Never Neutral

- **Bad Information: Things are said that are incorrect or even worse said knowing it is false.** Proverbs 19:5 (NLT)⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape.
- **Bad News: The info is true but is about something bad someone did – a shameful truth.**
- **We often think if its true it isn't gossip.** Proverbs 11:13 (NLT)
A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.
- **We prognosticate on the basis of our juicy news. To their face we show concern, but behind their back predict disaster.**



2. Behind the Back: The News Whisperer!

- **Gossip is much more interesting when the subject is not present.**
 - Would you say this if he were present? Really?
 - Would I receive this bad news about her in the same way if she were present?
 - Would I want to be talked about this way if I were out of the room?
- **Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you period.** Spanish Proverb
- **We should talk about people when they are not present and communicate good about them.**
 - Sometimes warning for decision makers must be given.
 - Sometimes wise council needs the whole story for healing and forgiveness.

3. Out of a Bad Heart

- **Ultimately gossip reveals the condition of our heart.** Matt. 12:34b “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.” (T)
- **Therefore:** Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.(L)
 - Why am I saying this? Listening to this? Attracted?
 - Jealousy, anger, contempt, bored, proud, fear of people? Imagine. All of this in your heart.



You did not come to know Christ this way...

- **Ephesians 4:21-32 (NLT) A DIFFERENT HEART: NEW TALK**

²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him,

²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life...

- ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.

²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, ...

- ²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.”²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil....

²⁹ 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.

³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.