

## Gossip

### Introduction:

- A. Some animals are small but dangerous.
- B. The tongue is also small but dangerous. - Proverbs 18:21
- C. One of the chief dangers of the tongue is gossip.
- D. What does the Bible teach about gossip?

### I. What is “gossip”?

- A. idle, careless talk about others - 1 Timothy 5:13
  - 1. “tattlers”
    - a. “to indulge in empty and foolish talk” (Thayer, p. 655)
    - b. “talk nonsense (about), bring unjustified charges against” (Arndt 6 Gingrich, p. 870)
  - 2. “busybodies”: “meddling in other persons’ affairs” (Vine. 1,:61); cf. Proverbs 26:17
- B. malicious speech about others - 2 Corinthians 12:20
  - 1. “backbitings”: “slander, defamation” (Arndt 6 Gingrich. 413)
  - 2. “whisperings”: “secret slander” (Vine, IV, 212); often done by insinuation

### II. Why should we not gossip?

- A. It brings trouble on the gossip. - Proverbs 21:23
- B. It stirs up strife. - Proverbs 26:20-21
- C. It hurts the subject. - Proverbs 26:22
- D. God hates it! - Proverbs 6:16-19

### III. How can we avoid gossip?

- A. Ask four questions before we say something about another.
  - 1. Is it true? - Ephesians 4:25 (Are you sure?)
  - 2. Will it do any good to tell it? - Ephesians 4:29
  - 3. Will it help all involved to tell it? - Ibid
  - 4. Have you spoken to the person himself? - Galatians 6:1
- B. Remember the power of the tongue. - Proverbs 18:21

### Conclusion:

- A. The one who engages in gossip is being a fool. - Proverbs 10:18
- C. Let us determine to keep our lips pure.