

GOSSIP CONTAMINATES BUT JESUS HEALS.

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Proverbs 26:20-28

For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. ²¹ As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. ²² The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body. ²³ Like the glaze covering an earthen vessel are fervent lips with an evil heart. ²⁴ Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; ²⁵ when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart; ²⁶ though his hatred be covered with deception, his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly. ²⁷ Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling. ²⁸ A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Effects of gossip

- Fuels strife – 26:20-21

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Proverbs 16:28

A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

- Feeds our heart with junk – 26:22

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- Feeds hypocrisy in our heart – 26:23-26

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- Fools us about what is really going on: #DiggingAPit – 26:27

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- Flatters us into thinking that fellowship and friendships won't be wrecked – 26:28
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Action points

- Obey the Gospel: Repent of your sin and trust in Jesus. Only when your heart is right with God can you be in a right relationship with others.
- Refuse to listen to gossip. Shut it down.
- Remember Jesus' love for you so you don't need to be threatened by others' success.
- Remember your promotion to a Reconciler & Peacemaker (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).