

How do I stop GOSSIP ?

1. Pray for "tongue control".
2. Refuse to listen to it. Tell the gossiper , " I'd rather not hear what you're about to say".
3. Refuse to spread it. Refuse to be the Devil's mailman (or mailwoman).
4. Deal with people directly, instead of the "grape vine" approach (see Matthew 18:15).
5. Spread encouragement, grace, & forgiveness.

(see Ephesians 4:29-32)

Did you
hear
the
latest
about ...?



Dealing with the damaging sin of gossip.

By Pastor Ron Wint

"I probably shouldn't even be telling you this but ... "

" He would kill me if he knew I told you this ... "

"You won't mention to her that I told you this, will you?"

If we're all honest, we have all gossiped at one time or another. We find ourselves spilling or soaking up personal information about someone behind their back that they wouldn't want shared.

Gossip may taste good going down. Proverbs 18:8 says ,
"The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels (like desert) and they go down into the innermost parts of the body"



But

**Gossip is
a poison** that can
ruin relationships

Why ? When personal information is shared about someone without their permission - trust is broken and betrayal takes place.

Proverbs 11:13 says,
"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter"

The worse form of gossip goes even a step further, because it involves things like:

Rumors,
Exaggerations,
Opinions,
Personal Attacks,
Manipulation
Complaints,
Power Struggles,
Revenge,
Hatred,
Selfishness,
Jealousy,
Pride,
Lies.

Gossip works
against one

thing Jesus
deeply desires

for His church - Unity.

Our Lord prayed in
John 17:21 & 23 for
Oneness and Unity .

A gossip works
directly against His will.

"a slanderer separates
intimate friends"
Proverbs 16:28

What God calls us to do is
"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ has forgiven you".

Ephesians 4:29-32