



Sermon Outline
October 20, 2024
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Gossip Defined

Romans 1:28b-30a

*** The Bible's clear that we need to have an appropriate _____ for the words we speak.**

Proverbs 13:3 - Those who guard their lips preserve their lives, but those who speak rashly will come to ruin.

Ephesians 4:29 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

*** Words have both influence and _____.**

Proverbs 18:21a - The tongue has the power of life and death...

James 3:5 - Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

*** The Bible is clear that we are to be very careful about what we say about other people, so it doesn't regress to _____.**

*** What gossip is not:**

** It's not speaking about important issues, situations, or incidents with people who are part of the problem, part of the solution, or someone who can provide wise, godly counsel.*

*** What gossip is:**

1. It can be either a _____ or a verb.

Proverbs 11:13a - A gossip betrays a confidence.

2 Corinthians 12:20b - I fear that there may be discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, slander, gossip...

2. It is an identity or a behavior that every Christ follower needs to be serious about _____.

Romans 1:28b-30a - ...so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 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...

***It's important to identify gossip as a _____.**

3. It is _____ to people & relationships.

Proverbs 16:28b - ... a gossip separates close friends.

I lay it down as a fact of life that if all men knew what others say of them, there would not be four friends in the world.

– Blaise Pascal

** Gossip damages relationships, demeans human value, ruins reputations, and is next to impossible to _____.*

Definition: *Sharing information about someone who isn't present with another person that could lead to a moral judgment and usually contains a certain entertainment value.*

*** Christian gossip disguises:**

1. _____ Gossip

2. "Just thought you _____" Gossip

3. _____ Gossip

*** The words you speak are really a _____ into your heart.**

Matthew 12:34b - For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matthew 12:36-37 - But I (Jesus) 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 acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.

The goal: To let it be said of you – *I've never heard them say anything _____ about another person.*