

## D. Think Gospel: Pursue Humility, Put Pride to Death

### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Why is it so easy to convince ourselves that what we are sharing is the exception to the rule not to gossip, rather than violating the rule not to gossip?  
**Hint:** In the Charles Bridges quote we read of those, “*who mistaking prejudice for principle, cause divisions for their own selfish ends.*” Then, in Romans 16:17-18, we read of those who “*are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.*”
- Why are gossip and slander, divisiveness, contrary to the very nature of God and the Gospel itself?
- How much energy must we put into resisting the temptation to gossip, slander and divide? See Ephesians 4:3.
- Why is it that, “Covering over an offense reveals whether or not we have compassion,” or, “Gossip reveals that we are not viewing the people we speak of through eyes of mercy”?
- What are some ways you can avoid gossip?
- How should you respond to a brother or sister in Christ who approaches you with slander or gossip about another brother or sister in the Lord?
- How does our understanding of the Gospel serve to fight gossip?
- In light of this message, are there people you need to go to and ask them their side of a story, or ask their forgiveness for slandering them? How will you make that a priority?

## Wisdom's Promise; Folly's Pain: Gossip and Slander

Jerry Cisar — July 25, 2010

Text: Proverbs 6:12-19

### Introduction: God Hates, Even Detests, Gossip and Slander

A. God hates Gossip and Slander... and for good reason!

Charles Bridges: “*Let the self-willed separatist remember the double stamp (vs. 14, 19) upon him 'that soweth discord among the brethren.' If the heavenly 'dew descends upon the brethren that dwell together in unity' (Ps. 130:3), a withering blast will fall on those, who mistaking prejudice for principle, 'cause divisions' for their own selfish ends.*”

- i. Gossip and slander are contrary to the very nature of the Gospel itself.
  - Ephesians 2:12-17
  - Ephesians 4:3
- ii. Gossip and Slander, aim right at destroying Gospel peace.

B. Gossip and slander are always associated with some of the most heinous sins in Scripture.

- Romans 1:25-32

C. God hates gossip and slander and therefore, so must we! We must be transformed and become those who pursue peace... those who will be called Sons of God because of how diligently we pursue peace!

## I. The Problem with Gossip and Slander

### A. It Separates

- 16:28

Longman: "It does not matter whether or not what is said is true. It is the intention and timing of the speech that is reprehensible. Usually, however, gossip is based on uncertain knowledge of a matter. ...Slander and gossip are cousins of each other, [slander] may be differentiated by being a direct attack on the reputation of a person, which might be delivered to the person directly as an insult or, like gossip spread behind the person's back."

- 17:9

*Real disciples restore community by refusing to repeat the failures of others.*

- 10:12
- 18:19
- Pro 9:7

### B. It is Deceitful

- 10:18
- 18:17
- 6:14

### C. We Like It!

- 18:8 and 26:22

WBC: "*Experience bears out the attraction that gossip exerts over human beings; it enters deeply into a person; the second line suggests this penetration and perhaps the hearer's relishing...*"

*"There is a flaw in human nature that assures slander will be listened to."* [EBC]

Waltke: "*Because slander so thoroughly penetrates a person's thoughts and emotions, it remains indelibly imprinted and effective.*"

## II. The Solution to Gossip and Slander

### A. Stop putting your log on the fire.

- Proverbs 26:20-21

### B. Avoid it.

- 20:19
- Romans 16:17-18

### C. Go to your brother.

- 28:23