

## ~GOSSIP, SLANDER (549)

### .. Difference Between Gossip And Slander

- **Gossip is idle personal talk, groundless rumor. Slander is defamation, generally malicious, whether oral or written.**
- **Not all gossip is bad or damaging, though it can be. At times it may be commendatory about a person or persons, or it may be the mere relating of something trifling or unobjectionable about others, out of human interest.**
- **But it is easy to slip into hurtful or troublemaking talk, for gossip is idle talk. The Scriptures counsel against idle speech, pointing out that the tongue is difficult to tame and that it is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame.**
- **Its destructiveness is further emphasized in that the Bible writer continues, and it is set aflame by Gehenna.**
- **Well, the tongue is a fire. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life aflame and it is set aflame by Gehenna. (James 3:6)**
- **The danger of loose, idle talk is emphasized many times. Such speech is connected with stupidity or foolishness**
- **The tongue of wise ones does good with knowledge, but the mouth of the stupid ones bubbles forth with foolishness. (Proverbs 15:2)**
- **It is a snare and can bring the speaker to ruin.**
- **The one guarding his mouth is keeping his soul. The one opening wide his lips, he will have ruin. (Proverbs 13:3)**
- **The mouth of the stupid one is the ruin of him, and his lips are a snare for his soul. (Proverbs 18:7)**
- **In the abundance of words there does not fail to be transgression, but the one keeping his lips in check is acting**

discreetly. (**Proverbs 10:19**)

- He that is keeping his mouth and his tongue is keeping his soul from distresses is a warning against thoughtless, loose, or idle talk.
- He that is keeping his mouth and his tongue is keeping his soul from distresses. (**Proverbs 21:23**)
- Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, said Jesus Christ.
- Offspring of vipers, how can you speak good things, when you are wicked? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (**Matthew 12:34**)
- Consequently, what one usually talks about is an index of that on which his heart is set. The Scriptures urge us to safeguard the heart and to think on and speak of the things that are true, serious, righteous, chaste, lovable, well spoken of, virtuous, and praiseworthy.
- More than all else that is to be guarded, safeguard your heart, for out of it are the sources of life. (**Proverbs 4:23**)
- Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are of serious concern, whatever things are righteous, whatever things are chaste, whatever things are lovable, whatever things are well spoken of, whatever virtue there is and whatever praiseworthy thing there is, continue considering these things. (**Philippians 4:8**)
- Jesus Christ said; It is what proceeds out of his mouth that defiles a man, and he went on to name, wicked reasonings, and false testimonies, among the things that proceed from the mouth but actually are out of the heart.
- Not what enters into his mouth defiles a man, but it is what proceeds out of his mouth that defiles a man. (**Matthew 15:11**)
- For example, out of the heart come wicked reasonings, murders, adulteries, fornications, thieveries, false testimonies, blasphemies. (**Matthew 15:19**)
- **Gossip** can lead to **slander**, becoming disastrous to the **slanderer**. The wisdom of the words at;

- The words of the mouth of the wise one mean favor, but the lips of the stupid one swallow him up. (**Ecclesiastes 10:12**)
- The start of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end afterward of his mouth is calamitous madness. (**Ecclesiastes 10:13**)
- And the foolish one speaks many words. Man does not know what will come to be, and that which will come to be after him, who can tell him? (**Ecclesiastes 10:14**)
- Is very evident:
- The lips of the stupid one swallow him up. (**Ecclesiastes 10:12**)
- The start of the words of his mouth is foolishness, and the end afterward of his mouth is calamitous madness. And the foolish one speaks many words. (**Ecclesiastes 10:13**)
- **Gossip** is talk that reveals something about the doings and the affairs of other persons. It may be unfounded rumor, even a lie, and although the **gossiper** may not know the untruthfulness of the rumor, he spreads it nevertheless, thereby making himself responsible for propagating a lie.
- It may be someone's faults and mistakes that the **gossiper** is talking about. But even if the things said are true, the **gossiper** is in the wrong and reveals lack of love. The proverb says,
- The one covering over transgression is seeking love, and he that **keeps talking about a matter** is separating those familiar with one another. (**Proverbs 17:9**)
- The apostle Paul gave strong advice to the overseer Timothy about the conduct of young widows who had no households to care for and who did not busy themselves in ministering to others. He said,
- At the same time they also learn to be unoccupied, gadding about to the houses, yes, not only unoccupied, but also **gossipers** and meddlers in other peoples affairs, talking of things they ought not. (**1 Timothy 5:13**)

- Such action is disorderly conduct. The same apostle spoke of some in the congregation at Thessalonica who were walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them.
- For we hear certain ones are walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them. (2 Thessalonians 3:11)
- The apostle Peter puts a busybody in other peoples matters in very bad company alongside a murderer, a thief, and an evildoer.
- However, let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a busybody in other peoples matters. (1 Peter 4:15)
- On the other hand, it is not gossip or slander and is not wrong to report conditions affecting a congregation to those having authority and responsibility to oversee and correct matters.
- This fact is demonstrated in the Scriptural record about the Christian congregation in ancient Corinth. There, dissensions and the paying of undue honor to men were creating sectarian attitudes, destroying the congregations unity.
- Some members of the house of a certain Chloe who were aware of these things and were concerned about the congregations spiritual welfare disclosed the fact to the absent apostle Paul, who acted quickly, writing corrective counsel to the congregation from Ephesus.
- For the disclosure was made to me about you, my brothers, by those of the house of Chloe, that dissensions exist among you. (1 Corinthians 1:11)

## .. Difference Between Gossip And Slander

- While **gossip** can in some cases be more or less harmless, though it can become **slander** or lead into it, **slander is always damaging and always causes hurt and contention.**
- It may be with or without malicious motive. In either case, the slanderer is putting himself in a bad position before God, for, sending forth contentions among brothers, is among the things that God hates.

- There are six things that Yehowah does hate, yes, seven are things detestable to his soul. (**Proverbs 6:16**)
- Lofty eyes, a false tongue, and hands that are shedding innocent blood. (**Proverbs 6:17**)
- A heart fabricating hurtful schemes, feet that are in a hurry to run to badness. (**Proverbs 6:18**)
- A false witness that launches forth lies, and anyone sending forth contentions among brothers. (**Proverbs 6:19**)
- The **Greek** word for **slanderer** or **accuser** is *di-a'bo-los*. The word is also used in the Bible as a title of Satan the Devil, the great **slanderer** of God.
- You are from your father the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your father. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the **father of the lie**. (**John 8:44**)
- So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth, he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. (**Revelation 12:9**)
- And I heard a loud voice in heaven say; Now have come to pass the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ, because the accuser of our brothers has been hurled down, who accuses them day and night before our God! (**Revelation 12:10**)
- At this the woman said to the serpent; Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat. (**Genesis 3:2**)
- But as for eating of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, God has said; You must not eat from it, no, you must not touch it that you do not die. (**Genesis 3:3**)
- At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. (**Genesis 3:4**)

- For God knows that in the very day of your eating from it your eyes are bound to be opened and you are bound to be like God, knowing good and bad. (**Genesis 3:5**)
- This indicates the source of such defamatory accusation.
- Slander constitutes a stumbling block to others, particularly to the one slandered. The Law given by God to Israel commanded;
- You must not go around among your people for the sake of slandering. You must not stand up against your fellows blood. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:16**)
- The seriousness of slander is here emphasized by pointing out that in some instances false charges might actually lead to execution. False witnesses have many times been instrumental in causing the death of innocent persons.
- Accordingly she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the older men and the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth. (**1 Kings 21:8**)
- But she wrote in the letters, saying; Proclaim a fast, and have Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:9**)
- And make two men, good-for-nothing fellows, sit in front of him, and let them bear witness against him, saying; You have cursed God and the king! And bring him out and stone him that he may die. (**1 Kings 21:10**)
- So the men of his city, the older men and the nobles that were dwelling in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent to them, just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. (**1 Kings 21:11**)
- They proclaimed a fast and had Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:12**)
- Then two of the men, good-for-nothing fellows, came in and sat down in front of him, and the good-for-nothing men began to bear witness against him, that is, Naboth, in front of the people, saying; Naboth has cursed God and the king! After that they brought him out to the outskirts of the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. (**1 Kings 21:13**)

- Meantime the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin were looking for false witness against Jesus in order to put him to death. (**Matthew 26:59**)
- But they found none, although many false witnesses came forward. Later on two came forward (**Matthew 26:60**)
- Sometimes matters are confidential, but the slanderer delights in revealing them to others who have no right to know.
- The one walking about as a slanderer is uncovering confidential talk, but the one faithful in spirit is covering over a matter. (**Proverbs 11:13**)
- The slanderer gets pleasure in revealing things that cause sensation. The one listening to slander is also wrong and is damaging himself.
- He that is going about as a slanderer is uncovering confidential talk, and with one that is enticed with his lips you must have no fellowship. (**Proverbs 20:19**)
- The words of a slanderer are like things to be swallowed greedily, which do go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (**Proverbs 26:22**)
- A person may be turned away from his friends because of some defamatory remark about them made by a slanderer, and enmities and divisions may develop.
- A man of intrigues keeps sending forth contention, and a slanderer is separating those familiar with one another. (**Proverbs 16:28**)
- The Scriptures foretell that the notable presence of **slanderers** would be one of the marks of the last days.
- But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (**2 Timothy 3:1**)
- For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, **blasphemers**, disobedient to parents, unthankful, disloyal. (**2 Timothy 3:2**)

- Having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, **slanderers**, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness. (**2 Timothy 3:3**)
- Such persons, men or women, if present among God's people, are to be reproved and corrected by responsible ones in the Christian congregation.
- Women should likewise be serious, not **slanderous**, moderate in habits, faithful in all things. (**1 Timothy 3:11**)
- You, however, keep on speaking what things are fitting for healthful teaching. (**Titus 2:1**)
- Let the aged men be moderate in habits, serious, sound in mind, healthy in faith, in love, in endurance. (**Titus 2:2**)
- Likewise let the aged women be reverent in behavior, not slanderous, neither enslaved to a lot of wine, teachers of what is good. (**Titus 2:3**)
- That they may recall the young women to their senses to love their husbands, to love their children. (**Titus 2:4**)
- To be sound in mind, chaste, workers at home, good, subjecting themselves to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be spoken of abusively. (**Titus 2:5**)
- I wrote something to the congregation, but Diotrephes, who likes to have the first place among them, does not receive anything from us with respect. (**3 John 1:9**)
- That is why, if I come, I will call to remembrance his works which he goes on doing, chattering about us with wicked words. Also, not being content with these things, neither does he himself receive the brothers with respect, and those who are wanting to receive them he tries to hinder and to throw out of the congregation. (**3 John 1:10**)
- **Slander**, in causing contention.
- A man of intrigues keeps sending forth contention, and a **slanderer** is separating those familiar with one another.



**(Proverbs 16:28)**

- Thus produces certain works of the flesh, such as hatreds, contentions, and divisions, that will prevent the **slanderer** and others he leads into wrongdoing from inheriting God's Kingdom.
- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)
- Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, sects. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- Envy, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (**Galatians 5:21**)
- Though the **slanderer** may be sly and deceitful, his badness will be uncovered in the congregation.
- Where there is no wood the fire goes out, and where there is no slanderer contention grows still. (**Proverbs 26:20**)
- As charcoal for the embers and wood for the fire, so is a contentious man for causing a quarrel to glow. (**Proverbs 26:21**)
- The words of a **slanderer** are like things to be swallowed greedily, which do go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (**Proverbs 26:22**)
- As a silver glazing overlaid upon a fragment of earthenware are fervent lips along with a bad heart. (**Proverbs 26:23**)
- With his lips the hater makes himself unrecognizable, but inside of him he puts deception. (**Proverbs 26:24**)
- Although he makes his voice gracious, do not believe in him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart. (**Proverbs 26:25**)
- Hatred is covered over by deceit. His badness will be uncovered in the congregation. (**Proverbs 26:26**)
- Jesus exposed the slanderous Judas.

- Jesus answered them; I chose you twelve, did I not? Yet one of you is a slanderer. ([John 6:70](#))
- To his apostles and then dismissed Judas from his company.  
What then took place led to Judas destruction.
- When, now, it had become evening, he was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ([Matthew 26:20](#))
- While they were eating, he said; Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me. ([Matthew 26:21](#))
- Being very much grieved at this, they commenced each and every one to say to him; Lord, it is not I, is it? ([Matthew 26:22](#))
- In reply he said; He that dips his hand with me in the bowl is the one that will betray me. ([Matthew 26:23](#))
- True, the Son of man is going away, just as it is written concerning him, but woe to that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been finer for him if that man had not been born. ([Matthew 26:24](#))
- By way of reply Judas, who was about to betray him, said; It is not I, is it, Rabbi? He said to him; You yourself said it. ([Matthew 26:25](#))
- After saying these things, Jesus became troubled in spirit, and he bore witness and said; Most truly I say to you, one of you will betray me. ([John 13:21](#))
- The disciples began to look at one another, being at a loss as to which one he was saying it about. ([John 13:22](#))
- There was reclining in front of Jesus bosom one of his disciples, and Jesus loved him. ([John 13:23](#))
- Therefore Simon Peter nodded to this one and said to him; Tell who it is about whom he is saying it. ([John 13:24](#))
- So the latter leaned back upon the breast of Jesus and said to him; Lord, who is it? ([John 13:25](#))
- Therefore Jesus answered; It is that one to whom I shall give

- the morsel that I dip. And so, having dipped the morsel, he took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ([John 13:26](#))
- And after the morsel then Satan entered into the latter. Jesus, therefore, said to him; What you are doing get done more quickly. ([John 13:27](#))
  - When I was with them I used to watch over them on account of your own name which you have given me, and I have kept them, and not one of them is destroyed except the son of destruction, in order, that the scripture might be fulfilled. ([John 17:12](#))
  - A form of **slander** is **reviling**, the practice of which merits cutting off from the Christian congregation, for **revilers** are condemned by the Scriptures as unworthy of life.
  - But now I am writing you to quit mixing in company with anyone called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person or an idolater or a **reviler** or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. ([1 Corinthians 5:11](#))
  - What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled! Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#))
  - Nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor **revilers**, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. ([1 Corinthians 6:10](#))
  - **Slander** and **reviling** are often associated with rebellion against God or against those he has duly constituted and appointed to govern the congregation of his people. A case in point is that of Korah and his associates, who spoke in slanderous terms against Moses and Aaron in rebelling against God's arrangement.
  - And Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, proceeded to get up, together with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben. ([Numbers 16:1](#))
  - And they proceeded to rise up before Moses, they and two hundred and fifty men of the sons of Israel, chieftains of the assembly, summoned ones of the meeting, men of fame. ([Numbers 16:2](#))

- So they congregated themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the congregation of Yehowah? (**Numbers 16:3**)
- Later Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said; We are not going to come up! (**Numbers 16:12**)
- Is it so little a thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to put us to death in the wilderness, that you should also try to play the prince over us to the limit? (**Numbers 16:13**)
- As it is, you have not brought us into any land flowing with milk and honey, that you may give us an inheritance of field and vineyard. Is it the eyes of those men that you want to bore out? We are not going to come up! (**Numbers 16:14**)
- Jude calls attention to these rebellious ones and their end when he warns Christians against abusive speech, murmuring, complaining, and speaking **swelling things**.
- Yet these men are speaking abusively of all the things they really do not know, but all the things that they do understand naturally like the unreasoning animals, in these things they go on corrupting themselves. (**Jude 1:10**)
- Too bad for them, because they have gone in the path of Cain, and have rushed into the erroneous course of Balaam for reward, and have perished in the rebellious talk of Korah! (**Jude 1:11**)
- Yes, the seventh one in line from Adam, Enoch, prophesied also regarding them, when he said; Look! Yehowah came with his holy myriads. (**Jude 1:14**)
- To execute judgment against all, and to convict all the ungodly concerning all their ungodly deeds that they did in an ungodly way, and concerning all the shocking things that **ungodly sinners spoke against him**. (**Jude 1:15**)
- These men are murmurers, complainers about their lot in life, proceeding according to their own desires, and their mouths

speaking **swelling things**, while they are admiring personalities for the sake of their own benefit. (**Jude 1:16**)