

## Persuasion Paper: Gossip



Are you ever told to "watch out for gossip" or "don't share things with gossips," but don't understand what they are talking about? Is the only definition for gossip which you know "a noun meaning a busybody or an old lady who sits around talking about other people?" Do you ever wonder just what gossip is? Do you ever wonder what the big deal about gossip is and what's wrong with gossip? If you might answer "yes" to any of these questions, then this is for you.

Gossip is quite simply, any time a person says something or shares something ungracious about somebody to someone else. It might be when you told somebody that Maryann was the most bossy person you ever met, or when you told them about the time Maryann told you that she was quick-tempered. The only things one could share about somebody else when he or she was not there that would not be considered gossip are things which would be kind and gracious about him or her. Gossip includes many things; sharing confidences or personal secrets when it would not help the confidant to have shared or when they have not given you permission to do so, saying ungracious things you have heard or seen about that person, or discussing that person in an ungracious manner. All these things are gossip.

Why is gossip wrong? Everything which the Bible declares wrong, IS WRONG! And the Bible never mentions things unnecessarily. Gossip is

something mentioned often in the Bible, under different names. It is called: malicious talk, slander, speaking rashly, a gossip's words, and just plain gossip. God spoke against gossip so often because it was important. And it is important because God felt it was so WRONG. God especially mentioned gossip or "malicious talk" in reference to women in the New Testament. In both I Timothy and Titus when God is stating the specifications of leader's wives and of women in general, He mentions gossip. Gossip has always been a problem with women especially, and obviously even then, gossip was specifically known to women. So, He made a point of mentioning it in reference to godly women; namely, godly women must not gossip.

But, what IS wrong with gossip? Mainly, gossip hurts. Gossip always hurts the person gossiped about, if they do hear of it, their feelings are immensely hurt and even if they don't, their reputations is scarred. The gossipper is hurt too. He or she now may experience deep guilt and has the potential of losing friendships. And the person who hears gossip feels shame for listening to it and embarrassment that that person might find out. So we see all the bad which gossip does.

If something is not good, then it must be bad. Gossip certainly is not good, so it must be bad. The Bible makes that very clear. So, in closing, from the words of the wise and the greatest book of all, "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, keeps himself from calamity." (Proverbs 21:23)

