

# Gossip

## Proverbs 26:22

**PROVERBS 26:22** (KJV) *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”*

**PROVERBS 26:22** (NKJV) *“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.”*

**PROVERBS 26:22** (NIV) *“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels, and they go down to a man’s inmost parts.”*

- The words of a talebearer are seeds of discord.
- They cause division.
- They break down rather than build up.
- They bring reproach to the name of Christ.
- They go down deep into a person’s soul.
- Strife and bitterness are their fruit.

**Proverbs 26:20** (NKJV) *“Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.”*

- Gossip is fuel for the fire of strife.
- It is destructive and it spreads quickly.
- **Lev. 19:16** (NKJV) *“You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.”*
- God knew that gossip was a destructive force.
- Though we are not under the law, we can learn from this principle.
- It endangers those around you.

## Gossip (Continued)

### Proverbs 11:11-13

Vs. 11: *“By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.”*

Vs. 12: *“He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.”*

Vs. 13: *“A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”*

- Cities are torn down from the mouth of the wicked.
- Words are important.
- If we are not looking out for our neighbor’s best interest, we lack wisdom.
- Some things are meant to be left in secret between brethren.
- God considers this faithfulness.

When is it gossip and when is it not? The *“THINK”* principle would be helpful.

**T** – is it *true*?

**H** – is it *helpful*?

**I** – is it *inspirational*?

**N** – is it *necessary*?

**K** – is it *kind*?

- Believers who continually gossip are carnal believers.
- They tear down rather than build up.
- We must guard ourselves against gossip.
- Be led by divine view-point, not horizontal view-point.
- We must be under the control of the Spirit of God.
- We must be saturated with the Word of God.