

Victory Over Sin Sermon Series
Lesson 11 – Victory Over Gossip
Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

Gossip is one of the most insidious works of the flesh and darkness that inhibits unity of purpose and mission. Gossip started with Lucifer in Heaven that caused an all out war against the kingdom of God. He and his demons were kicked out of heaven because of starting gossip and spreading gossip. The fallen angels were deceived by Satan's gossip. They believed the gossip of lies against God.

Gospel of Jesus Christ vs. the Gossip of Satan

Jesus established the truth concerning the gospel to all the world, while Satan spreads His gossip of lies throughout the earth.

Gossip is a very serious matter in which you must be aware of in order to defeat it. The remnant people of God must have total victory over gossip. Many times it comes in a package that appear to be innocent, but God says look a little closer, there is a snake inside getting ready to bite you! Those who are not vigilant against gossip will get bitten by it and infected by its poison.

Gossipers, the dark whisperers, are agents of the Devil. We must avoid it at all costs. Those who are not vigilant against gossip will get bitten by it and infected by its poison.

Gossipers are slanderers that backbite with lies because of their hatred, envy, and jealousy of others.

What does the Bible say about gossipers?

Psalms 101:5-8

- 5 Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.
- 6 Mine eyes *shall be* upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.
- 7 He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.
- 8 I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

Exodus 23:1

- 1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Exodus 20:16

- 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. (9th Commandment)

Proverbs 10:18

18 He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.

Romans 1:28 - 32

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity [bad character]; **whisperers**,

30 **Backbiters**, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Whispers (Greek) = "Secret slander" – Strong's

Whispers are those who gossip in secret under the cloak of innocence and appearance of Christianity. These are some of the most dangerous agents of Satan.

Backbiter (Greek) = talkative against, that is, a **slanderer**. - Strong's

In many cases a backbiter pretends to be your friend, but they are gossiping about you behind your back in secret.

"There are those who cherish a spirit of envy and hatred against their brethren, calling it the Spirit of God. There are those who go up and down as talebearers, accusing and condemning, blackening character, inspiring hearts with maliciousness. They carry false reports to the doors of their neighbors, who, **as they listen to the slander, lose the Spirit of God**. Not even the messenger of God, who bears to the people His truth, is spared. **This sin is worse than the sin of Achan**. Its influence is not confined to those who cherish it. It is a root of bitterness, whereby many are defiled. **God cannot bless the church till it is purged of this evil that corrupts minds and spirits, the souls of those who do not repent and change their course of action.** { Ellen White, 18 Manuscript Releases Pg. 147 }

About two years ago we did a Bible prophecy revival in our local town for eight days. We rented a good sized room at the community college. Satan sent a whisperer and backbiter. This person in which I knew from a church in the past pretended to be my friend. So when I saw that he showed up for the revival I thought that he was excited to see a prophecy series in his town. I thought he was coming in support of the truth being shared with others at this meeting. But as I presented the truth on the various topics of Bible prophecy I noticed that his face was not happy about what I was presenting. He appeared to be very upset. After the meeting he went behind my back complaining. He did not like the message of who Christ was coming for when He comes again; those who have victory over sin through the power of Christ and how grace teaches us to live godly in this present world. After the meeting, I greeted those in attendance. Two ladies that I knew from the community were thanking God

for the things that they were learning at the prophecy revival. As we were talking, one of the ladies looked in the direction of the backbiter and pointed to him and said, "Hey, that's my boss." My heart just sank I could not believe it. Because of his hatred of the truth, he spread his gossip and lies to her. She and her friend did not show up again. This gossipier was sent by the Devil to spew lies and slander, but truth still went out with power locally and worldwide through the streaming and recording on Youtube and Facebook.

"The unity of the church is the convincing evidence that God has sent Jesus into the world as its Redeemer. This is an argument which worldlings can neither withstand nor controvert. Therefore Satan is constantly working to prevent this union and harmony, that unbelievers, by witnessing backbiting, dissension, and strife among professed Christians, may become disgusted with religion, and be confirmed in their impenitence. God is dishonored by those who profess the truth while they are at variance and enmity with one another. Satan is the great accuser of the brethren, and all who engage in this work are enlisted in his service." - {15 Manuscript Releases 143.3}

Jesus had to deal with gossipers and backbiters of the Pharisees who hated him with a passion.

Mark 2:15-17

- 15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.
- 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?
- 17 When Jesus heard *it*, he saith unto them, **They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Thayer Definition:

- 1) to murmur
 - 1a) either of a whole crowd, or among one another
 - 1b) always used of many indignantly complaining

They did not address Jesus directly. They complained among themselves and others to try to discredit Jesus. They were gossipers. The purpose of a gossipers is to lift up self and discredit and assassinate the character of others. Today many GC church leaders gossip and murmur with the intent to assassinate the characters of the independent ministries.

"By this accusation [that Jesus received sinners] they insinuated that Christ liked to associate with the sinful and vile, and was insensible to their wickedness. The rabbis had been disappointed in Jesus. **Why was it that one who claimed so lofty a character did not mingle with them and follow their methods of teaching? Why did He go about so unpretendingly**, working among all classes? If He were a true prophet, they said, He would harmonize with them, and would treat the publicans and sinners with the indifference they deserved. It angered these guardians of society that He with whom they were continually in controversy, yet whose purity of life awed and condemned them, should meet, in such

apparent sympathy, with social outcasts. They did not approve of His methods. They regarded themselves as educated, refined, and pre-eminently religious; but Christ's example laid bare their selfishness." [Ellen White, Christ Object Lessons p. 185}

Proverbs 18:8

8 The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Talebearer (Greek) = whisper (secret gossiper)

In other words, gossipers are like many ulcers and cancer in the stomach causing a lot of pain, suffering, and death.

Gossipers are at war with the truth, just like Satan who warred against the truth in Heaven.

Revelation 12:7-10

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Satan (Greek) = Satanias, False accuser

Devil (Greek) = diabolos, slander

If someone is gossiping about someone else to you, never forget that same person is gossiping about you behind your back regardless if he/she claims to be your friend.

Don't be a gossip's trash can. If you allow gossipers to dump their dirt on you, you will get dirty and filthy. You will become a partner in their slanderous lies.

Proverbs 20:19

19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Don't in anyway participate in the gossip. Counteract gossip with the truth of God's word. Start talking about Bible prophecy and the three angels' message, health reform,

pharmakeia, revival and reformation, true education, etc... they will leave and will not like coming around you or calling you anymore.

In summary, in order to have total victory over gossip, don't be a gossiper, don't listen to it, reject it with God's truth, and don't excuse it. God's people should have nothing to do with it (period).

Psalm 15:1-3

1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

Amen....