**WOAC On Air –21 March 2024**
**Episode 88**
**Inspiration brought to you by WOAC on Air**

---

**Topic: Gossip! How to gird ourselves against this snare of the enemy**

## 1. What is gossip?

Talking about People who arent present - TImes.com
Most researchers define gossip as talking about someone who isn't present and sharing information that isn't widely known.edition.cnn.com

Biblehub.com definition of Gossip - Hebrew **Definition:Rakil:** slander - slander, carry tales, talebearer, From rakal a scandal-monger (as travelling about)

## 2. What causes us to gossip?

**Celebrity Gossip** - Curious what is happening in the life of those popular people out there. Following celebrities you prone to speak about them as you cheer them on.

**Industry Gossip** - Highs and Low's of successful people in the industry you follow.

**Political Gossip** - Government leaders

**Offences** - Gossip expressed in the form of seeking counsel, healing the heart, justifying your heart by breaking down others. Or not having the courage to speak to the offender, then you end up speaking about the offender and give our perspective, but the fact is there are 3 stories to every view "Your Perspective, The Other's Perspective, The devils perspective, Then there's God's perspective which is truth.

## 2. What does scripture say about Gossip?

(a) **Whispering, backbitings**

2 Cor 12. **20**For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and *that* I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest *there be* contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, **backbitings, whisperings**, conceits, tumults; **21**lest, when I come again, my God will humble

me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness which they have practiced.

**Definition: psithurismos : a whispering**

**Usage: a whispering, secret slandering.**

**5587** *psithyrismós* - a *whispering* to "quietly" spread *malicious gossip*; "*whispering*" that launches "secret attacks on a person's character" [5587 (*psithyrismós*) is "an onomatopoetic" sound similar to the noise of the word) word for the sibilant murmur of a snake charmer (Ecc 10:11)

**(b) Slander**

James 4.11 **11**Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister [d] or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. **12**There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able

Definition: Katalaleo : to speak evil of

Usage: I speak evil of, rail at, slander.2635 katalaléō (from 2596 /katá, "down, according to," intensifying 2980 /laléō, "to prattle on") speak down to in a hostile, to mock (revile), detracting from someone's reputation by "malice of speech directed against one's neightbor" to defame, slander (backbite).

**(c) Talebearer**

Leviticus 19.16 **16**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.

**Definition: Rakil:** slander
slander, carry tales, talebearer - From rakal a scandal-monger (as travelling about)

**(d) Slander**

Proverbs 10.18 Whoever hides hatred *has* lying lips,
And whoever spreads slander *is* a fool

**Definition: Hebrew Dibbah:** whispering, defamation, evil report
defaming, evil report, infamy, slander, From d**abab: to move gently, glide, glide over**

(e) **Gossips**

Proverbs 11.13 No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret, but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy.

**Definition:Rakil:** slander - slander, carry tales, talebearer, From rakal a scandal-monger (as travelling about)

3. **The damage Gossiping causes -** The harm it brings to the gossiper and the reputational damage it causes the person being spoken about

## a) Strife, division

Proverbs 16.8 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

b) **Reproach - Shame to friend**

Proverbs 17.9 9 Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

### c) Malicious intent

Proverbs 26.10-21 Where *there is* no wood, the fire goes out;
And where *there is* no [d]talebearer, strife ceases.
**21***As* charcoal *is* to burning coals, and wood to fire,
So *is* a contentious man to kindle strife.
**22**The words of a [e]talebearer *are* like [f]tasty trifles,
And they go down into the [g]inmost body.

d) Tasty Troufles - swallow greedily, to wound, to burn in, Inmost body (Womb, depth, as they be born pregnancy)

### 4. Apostles warn us the church about babbling, tale bearing and gossiping

1 Tim 5 **11**But [c]refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, **12**having condemnation because they have cast off their first [d]faith. **13**And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. **14**Therefore I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully

**Romans 1. 29-32 addresses unrighteous acts and include "they are whisperers, back-biters in this group**
**Definition: psithuristésa whisperer,** secret slanderer.

**Cognate: 5588** *psithyristés* – properly, a whisperer; a sneaky gossip (a "back-stabber"); a backbiter, quietly (secretly) destroying another person's character – i.e. covertly, not out in the open, but rather operating "in a corner.

TItus - Paul writes a letter to His spiritual son Titus and advises him I left you in Crete to set order in the community after addressing the elders and bishops conduct he then addresses the Qualities of the sound church

Titus 2.**1**But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: **2**that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; **3**the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers…

5. **Godly character** - Psalm 15 - The Character of Those Who May Dwell with the Lord 1Lord, who may [a]abide in Your tabernacle?

Who may dwell in Your holy hill? 2He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; 3He who does not backbite(Spy, slander) with his tongue(Charmer, slanderer, bark) , or does evil to his neighbor, nor does he [b]take up a reproach (Disgrace, shame, scorn) against his friend