



Unify – Don't Gossip Proverbs (various)

1. Slander and gossip both aim to destroy someone's **reputation**. They differ slightly in that slander *emphasizes* doing so through spreading lies, while gossip *emphasizes* sharing private information. There is much overlap though. What does Proverbs 11:13 teach?

a. Fill out the blanks for the definition of gossip given in the sermon: **Gossip** – Sharing negative, _____ information with someone who is neither part of the _____ nor the _____.

2. Read Proverbs 21:2. Give some questions you should ask yourself before speaking that will help you discern if you're *about* to gossip?

a. Why is Proverbs 29:20 helpful regarding the topic of gossip?

3. Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What in verse 19 shows what someone is doing when they gossip?

a. Explain this word picture in your own words.

4. Read Proverbs 17:9. What is a loving response when someone sins against you? What is the response of a gossiper (a hateful response) when someone sins against them?

a. How do you end up causing pain between people by gossip?

b. Have you ever been gossiped about? Explain what happened and the outcome?

c. Why is it hard to discern if someone is gossiping when they're deeply hurt, and even harder when they're in tears?

d. Explain how a wise person responds when someone approaches them to gossip. Assume the person gossiping in this case is deeply hurt or crying.

5. Read Proverbs 26:20-21 and explain the word picture of what a gossip does when there is conflict between two people.

a. According to verse 20, what does the wise person do? What is the result?

6. Read Proverbs 26:22 (also 18:8). The reason why people gossip is because of the pleasure it offers. Give an explanation of each of the pleasures of gossip below that were covered in the sermon:

a. The Pleasure of Control –

b. The Pleasure of Pride –

c. The Pleasure of Intimacy –

d. The Pleasure of Being Liked –

e. The Pleasure of Peace –

7. In the church – how do people gossip about their spouse and through prayer requests?

8. How are you doing in the area of gossip? Have you been sharing negative private information with people who are neither part of the problem or the solution?

a. Why should the GOSPEL compel you NOT to gossip about other people?
