



My Big Fat Mouth – Part 4 – Gossip
Mark Rouse – February 25, 2018

The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. - Proverbs 18:8

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him...a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. - Proverbs 6:16, 19

THE PROBLEM WITH GOSSIP

- ✓ Gossip **DEVALUES** people that matter to God.
- ✓ Gossip exposes **DARKNESS** in my heart.

OVERCOMING GOSSIP

1) Are my conversations HELPFUL or HURTFUL?

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. - Ephesians 4:29

A wicked scoundrel digs up evil, and his slander is like a scorching fire. ²⁸ A perverse person spreads dissension, and a gossip separates the closest friends. - Proverbs 16:27-28

2) Am I making PRIVATE matters PUBLIC?

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. - Proverbs 11:13

When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. ¹⁰ Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation. - Proverbs 25:9-10

3) Am I PERMITTING others to gossip?

Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander - Proverbs 17:4

Where there is no wood a fire goes out, and where there is no gossip, contention ceases. - Proverbs 26:20

- ✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE: Our words MATTER.**

³⁴ For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of... ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. - Matthew 12:34, 36