

M'm! M'm! Good!

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins
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There's nothing so delicious as the taste of gossip!
It melts in your mouth.

Proverbs 18:8 (CEV)

What is Gossip?

Bearing bad news behind someone's back out of a bad heart.

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. **Romans 1:29-30 (NLT)**

**Great minds discuss Ideas.
Average minds discuss Events.
Small minds discuss People.**

Three Reasons Why Gossiping Ain't Good:

1. Gossip hurts the person who **gossips.**

Who may worship in **your sanctuary**, Lord? Who may enter **your presence** on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who **refuse to gossip** or harm their neighbors or **speak evil** of their friends. **Psalms 15:1-3 (NLT)**

When you and someone else can't get along, **don't gossip** about it. Others will find out, and your **reputation will then be ruined**. **Proverbs 25:9-10 (CEV)**

**Everything said needs to be true.
But not everything true needs to be said.**

2. Gossip hurts the person who **listens to gossip.**

Evil people **relish** malicious conversation, the ears of liars **itch** for dirty gossip. **Proverbs 17:4 (Message)**

A few things that may deflect gossip people:

- You can quickly change the subject.
- "Now, how can we help this person?"
- "Have you gone to speak with this person privately?"
- "Let's keep them in prayer."
- "Why are you telling me this?"

3. Gossip hurts the person who **is being gossiped about**.

Gossip is talking about someone's actions (what they did).
Slander is talking about someone's character (who they are).

Gossip is spread by wicked people; they stir up trouble and **break up friendships**.
Proverbs 16:28 (GNT)