

NOT FOR SALE

Titus 3:3-7

*Once we, too, were **foolish and disobedient**. We were **misled** and **became slaves** to many **lusts and pleasures**. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—
When God our Savior revealed his **kindness and love**, he **saved us**, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of **his mercy**. He **washed** away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of **his grace he made us right** in his sight and gave us **confidence** that we will inherit eternal life.*

I'm Not for Sale...

My words and INFLUENCE

James 1:19-20

*Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all **be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry**. Human **anger does not produce** the righteousness God desires.*

Ephesians 4:29

*Don't use foul or abusive language. Let **everything you say be good and helpful**, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.*

Do you find yourself caught up in COMPLAINING?

Philippians 2:14-15

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

Can I change the CIRCUMSTANCES?

How can i change my PERSPECTIVE?

Philippians 1:12-13

And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that

everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ.

Psalm 103:2-5

*Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I **never forget the good things he does for me.** He **forgives all my sins** and **heals all my diseases.** He **redeems me from death** and **crowns me with love** and tender mercies. He **fills my life with good things.** My youth is renewed like the eagle's!*

Beware of the trap of crushing CRITICISM

Galatians 5:14-15

For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

Proverbs 12:18

Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

ANYONE can point out PROBLEMS

We are called to BRING HOPE

It's too easy find ourselves isolated and alone in the Land of LIES

Proverbs 12:22

*The **Lord detests lying lips**, but he **delights** in those who **tell the truth.***

Ephesians 4:21-25

*Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. **So stop telling lies.** Let us **tell our neighbors the truth**, for we are all parts of the same body.*

Lies eventually take ROOT and take OVER!

- Lie to yourself
- Lie to the people around you
- Start Living the Lie

We Lie because we have TRUST ISSUES

CONFESSION is the key to RESTORATION

1 John 1:9

*But if we **confess our sins to him**, he is faithful and just to **forgive us our sins** and to **cleanse us** from all wickedness.*

James 5:16

Confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may **be healed**. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

There's no easier place to slip than the Grip of GOSSIP

Proverbs 18:8

*Rumors are **dainty morsels** that **sink deep** into one's **heart**.*

Gossip ONLY HURTS! It never ever HELPS

1. Hurts FRIENDS

Proverbs 16:28

*A troublemaker plants **seeds of strife**; **gossip separates** the best of friends.*

Gossip ONLY HURTS! It never ever HELPS

1. Hurts FRIENDS
2. Hurts the HEARER

Proverbs 17:4

*Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip;
liars pay close attention to slander.*

Gossip ONLY HURTS! It never ever HELPS

1. Hurts FRIENDS
2. Hurts the HEARER
3. Proves the Character of the SHARER!!

Proverbs 25:9-10

*When arguing with your neighbor,
don't betray another person's secret.
Others may accuse you of gossip,
and you will never regain your good reputation.*

Talk It Over

1. Share a time when your mouth got you in trouble.
2. Read James 1:19-20 and Ephesians 4:29 together again- Share what you "see" in the text - how would you teach these principles?
3. Why do you think we can so easily slip in to complaining and being critical? Do you recognize these when they come up in your life?
4. How can we encourage one another in ways that will help us steer clear of gossip and encourage truth-telling?
5. Pray together