



“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” (Matt. 12:37)

2nd Sunday of Paouna

Gossip

*“The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles,
and they go down into the inmost body.”*

(Proverbs 18:8)

Violations of Gossip

1. Gossip Violates Scripture

1. ***“You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people...”***
(Lev. 19:16)
2. ***“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; **they are whisperers, backbiters**, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, **that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**”*** (Rom. 1:28-32)

Violations of Gossip

2. Gossip violates the person's reputation about whom we are speaking
3. Gossip violates the reputation of the person spreading it



Violations of Gossip



4. Gossip affects the listener

*And David said to Saul: “**Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Indeed David seeks your harm’?** Look, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord’s anointed.’ (1 Sam. 24:9-10)*

How to deal with gossip

1. Try to avoid gatherings that are prone to gossip

“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”
(Pro. 20:19)



How to deal with gossip

2. Remain Silent

“There is a man who is silent because he has no answer, and there is a man who is silent because he knows when to speak.” (Sir. 20:6)



How to deal with gossip

3. Cover for the victim

“He who covers a
transgression seeks
love, but he who
repeats a matter
separates friends.”
(Pro. 17:9)



How to deal with gossip

4. Try spreading positive rumors



How to deal with gossip

5. Keep yourself busy with your own affairs

“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.

Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

(1 Tim. 5:13-14)



How to deal with gossip

6. Do not repeat the matter

“A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”

(Pro. 11:13)



Summary

1. Violation of Gossip

- Gossip violates Scripture
- Gossip violates the person's reputation about whom we are speaking
- Gossip violates the reputation of the person spreading it
- Gossip violates the listener's impression

2. How to deal with gossip

- Try to avoid gatherings that are prone to gossiping
- Show no interest – don't comment
- Make excuses for them – cover for them
- Try spreading positive rumors
- Keep yourself busy with your own affairs
- Do not repeat it