



the “respectable” sin

“There are plenty of people...who can attend closely to their neighbor’s business by dint of neglecting their own; but Mrs. Rachel Lynde was one of those capable creatures who can manage their own concerns and those of other folks into the bargain.”

L.M. Montgomery
Anne of Green Gables





1. What Is Gossip?

passively ingesting – Prov. 18:8, 17:4

unknowingly spreading false info – Prov. 18:17

meddling in others' affairs – 1 Pet. 4:15

Matthew
12:35-37

revealing confidential info – Prov. 11:13

intentionally slandering to destroy – Prov. 10:18, 16:27-28

G O S S I P
S P E C T R U M

Self-Evaluation



- Do I love this person?
- Am I trying to exalt myself?
- How might this affect the people I'm talking about & to?
- Is this a live or dead problem?
- Am I representing the issue fairly?
- Have I talked to the person I'm talking about?
- Do I feel entitled to know everything?
- Would I be saying this if the person were here? Why / why not?



2. What's the Harm?

The Damage



- **Separates friends – Prov. 17:9**
- **Unfairly taints your view of others – 2 Cor. 10:10-11**
- **Stirs unnecessary strife – Prov. 26:20**
- **Creates an environment of fear & distrust – James 5:16**
- **Leads to dysfunctional churches – 2 Cor. 13:19-20**

3. How Do We Overcome?



Overcoming Gossip



- **Think before speaking – Prov. 17:28**
- **Steer conversations away – Prov. 15:23**
- **Make edifying speech a habit – Eph. 4:29**
- **Always look for the good – 1 Cor. 13:6-7**



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