

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 4 Gossip

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James 3:2 *For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

Though the word "gossip" is not in the Bible there are other similar words that define this abomination to the Lord. Let us look at a few words used in the bible to define gossip we can see the damaging effects it has on both the hearer, the speaker and the one being spoke of.

1. Slander – Numbers 14:36
2. Sowing discord – Proverbs 6:19
3. Evil Speaking – Ephesians 4:31
4. Speaking guile – Proverbs 34:13
5. Lying lips – Proverbs 10:18
6. Murmur – 1 Corinthians 10:10
7. Blaspheme – 1 Timothy 1:20
8. Tattlers – 1 Timothy 5:13
9. Busybodies – 2 Thessalonians 3:11

The above nine words, bring some severe punishments by God for their actions; let no Christian ever be guilty of any of them.

As we press forward to achieve the command set forth by God "to be ye holy" 1 Peter 1:15 let's look at what the whole verse says: ***But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;*** When we were lost and part of the world, our conversation eventually found its way to speaking of things that we should not. Ephesians 2:3 Because we were part of the world, we did not care.

Jesus Christ has taken us out of the world and washed us in His precious blood, He commands us to have holy conversation.

- What happens when you gossip?

You let your flesh (originally taught by the devil) control your tongue. The devil wants to destroy the testimony of Jesus Christ, other Christians and you, 1 Peter 5:8 ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:***

We do not know of any single thing that does more damage to another person, than to have someone going around telling things about them. It seems as though Satan himself gets into a person's tongue turning it loose on both ends. The devil is the tempter, instigator of the sins of the tongue. James 3:6 ***And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature;***

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and it is set on fire of hell. It only takes a spark to burn an entire forest. Once the fire is started, it takes tons of water to put it out. The forest that was once green and beautiful is now charred for many years. The Christian who has been damaged by a loose tongue may take a lifetime to recover. Proverbs 18:19 ***A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.***

- What happens to your reputation?

It is ruined with your friends. Who will ever trust you again in telling you the burdens of their life, if they think you might tell another?

Think about what happens when you repeat something you heard about another, whether you know it to be true or not. The next time you meet that person, your attitude will be indifferent, or cold. We all know the feeling we get when we are around those that have been praying for us. You get the same feeling when you get around someone whose has been talking about you, or you them.

Remember in grade school, we would sit in a circle and the teacher would give the first person a story and by the time each person told another, words would be added, when the story went all around the circle by the time it came to the last person, it was nothing like the real story. Even Eve added her version of what God said in the garden. Genesis 3:3.

- What happens to your fellowship with the Lord?

It is broken, you have grieved the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 ***And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.***

There are many commands in the Scriptures to watch our tongue. Not to repeat idle words about others. The Bible says the tongue is a world of iniquity in James 3:6. In Proverbs, penned by Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived besides Jesus, the Bible says Proverbs 3:29 ***Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.*** Proverbs 21:23 ***Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*** Proverbs 25:23 ***The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.*** The Bible speaks of the church as the body of Christ and that we as Christians are all part of that one body. In medicine when your body attacks itself they use words like cancer, disease, infection. Gossip is a disease that effects all who hear and speak. God says in Proverbs 6:16-19 there are six things that He hates and the seventh is an abomination unto Him. Look at which one He calls an abomination. ***"he that soweth discord among brethren."***

- What should you do when you hear gossip?

Stop the gossip in their tracks, rebuke them in love by reminding them of what they are doing and the effects it will have on others and themselves.

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You could say something like "I do not think you should be saying things like this, I would appreciate it if you would not do that anymore. The Bible defines what you are doing as talebearing" Leviticus 19:16-17 *Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD. 17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.*

Proverbs 26:5 *Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.* Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

- What should you do if you are the topic of gossip?

Nothing, only the flesh wants to get even, to seek retribution Proverbs 12:23 *A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.* 1 Peter 3:9 *Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.* Jesus was lied about and slandered, His response was to tell them the truth as He continued about His Father's business. Matthew 11:19 *The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.* As Christians we are wide open for assault from those who are not walking after Christ, remember what we mentioned at the beginning, since the devil cannot take away your salvation his second choice is to destroy your testimony. Be sure you never give him that avenue. 1 Peter 3:16 *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.* 1 Peter 2:20 *For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*

- How to get victory over Gossip

As a rule, we should not speak of another not present, unless its conversation of praise. Let's look at a few scriptural examples:

2 Timothy 4:11 *Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

Romans 16:1 *I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:*

Romans 16:5 *Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*

Romans 16:7 *Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.*

Romans 16:9 *Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.*

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2 Timothy 1:5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

The Bible tells us to use our mouth to preach the word to exhort one another, pray for one another, bear one another's burdens, never to gossip about one another. **2 Timothy 4:2** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* **2 Timothy 2:2** *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* **Hebrews 10:25** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.* **Galatians 6:2** *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

John 13:15 *For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

Notes

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Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What is God's view on gossip?
2. What should you do, when someone says things about you that are not true?
3. What should we use our mouths for?
4. Who gets hurt when you gossip?
5. Explain the circle story and how that relates to gossip?
6. How should you treat a gossipper?
7. What seventh thing is an abomination to the Lord?
8. Explain the "fire" in James 3:6.
9. When is it OK to talk about others?

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10. What 7 of the words the Bible uses to explain a person that gossips?
 - a. b.
 - c. d.
 - e. f.
 - g.
11. Who wants us to gossip?
12. What is a medical example to what gossip does to the body of Christ?
13. What could happen to a babe in Christ when they hear gossip about themselves?
14. What is your attitude toward someone you have gossip about?
15. How do your brothers and sisters treat you if they find out you are a gossip?

True/false

- The Bible instructs us to use our tongue to preach the gospel.
- God hates gossip.
- If I gossip, my reputation is ruined.

**Scripture memorization**

Proverbs 18:19; James 3:6; Proverbs 3:29

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

Any questions?