

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri  
Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)

Volume 10, Issue 44

Evangelist and Editor:  
Dempsey Collins

Nov.15, 2009

Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30.

## The Sin of Gossip *by Dempsey Collins*

- I. Gossiping sins
- A. I Pet. 4:15 – “Busy body” in other men’s matters
    - 1. N.A.S. – Troublesome meddler
    - 2. A.S. – “Meddler” and add “In other men’s matters”
  - B. Word – Allotrioepiskopos – from two words
    - 1. Allotrios – Belonging to another
    - 2. Episkopos – Oversee
  - C. Thayer – “One who tries to supervise the affairs of others.”  
Vincent – Overseer of another’s matters. One who usurps authority in matters not within his province.”
- Hence: The idea is not necessarily wrong to inquire or learn about someone, but to try and tell someone how to run their affairs. To take a position of authority where you have no right. If someone asks your advice – fine, give it if you want to – even then with perhaps some reservations. But do not seek to meddle or oversee where you have no right.
- II. Parallel teaching
- A. I Thess. 4:11 – “Attend to your own business” is as much to say “Keep your nose out of the business of others!”
  - B. Only two Biblical exceptions to such a charge
    - 1. If they want your help in something (Gal. 6:2)
    - 2. If their business involves sin – then I will do as Jesus instructs in Matt. 18:15-17 or I Cor. 5, depending on the nature of the sin (public or private) and only as he instructs.
  - C. II Thess. 3:11 – Busybodies – periergazomai – Busy in the affairs of others. (Notice here how idleness and being a busybody go hand in hand.) This is clearly seen in I Tim. 5:13.
  - D. I Tim. 5:13 – periergos – With very little personal responsibility to occupy their time, they pass time meddling in the affairs of others – seems to be a play on words here – “NOT BUSY WORKERS BUT BUSY BODIES.”
  - E. A busybody is not:
    - 1. Seeking to help another with something (Gal. 6:2) – either physically or spiritually.
    - 2. It is not confronting someone with their sin if unrepented of (Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:12).
    - 3. Asking or inquiring about someone.
  - F. Being a busybody IS meddling and seeking to oversee the affairs of others where you have no right. GOOD WORD – INTERFERING in the affairs of another.
- III. GOSSIP – Rom. 1:29, 20 – Two different words are used here:  
(see also II Cor. 12:20. Same basic words.)
- A. Whisperer – or – Gossiper
    - 1. Vines – “secret slander p. 212

- Speaking evil of another in secret or in a corner to someone else.
2. Slanderer or backbiter (KJV) – katalalos  
From two words: Kata – against and Laleo – to speak (Vines, p. 94)  
To speak evil of another. Difference between this and gossip is that the slanderer does his evil speaking publicly. He trumpets his slanders openly.
  3. Both are evil but the whisperer or gossip is worse for two reasons:
    - a. Cowardly it is done.
    - b. Leaves the man accused of wrong with no defense since he does not know the source or exact nature of accusation.
  4. Another word is used in I Tim. 3:11:
    - a. Diabolos – slander (Translated – devil)  
“Slandering, accusing falsely...demeanor and conduct of others and spreading their innuendoes and criticisms” (Vine, p. 39).

- IV. Irreparable damage can be done by the person that engages in these sins, not only to an individual’s reputation but to the whole church as well.
- A. Gossip wounds. “The words of a talebearer are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Prov. 18:8). It can be often seen that the wounds of talebearing never heal. Sometimes the damage is so great that it can never be undone.
  - B. Gossip separates friends. “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends” (Prov. 17:9). Again, Solomon said, “A whisperer separateth chief friends (Prov. 16:28). A lot of friendships have been ruined by gossip.
  - C. Gossip sows strife and digs up evil. “An ungodly man diggeth up evil; and in his lips there is a burning fire” (Prov. 16:27). One who is eager to talk, he who must whisper will find something to talk about – even if he has to dig it up! His lips burn with a message of gossip. Strife is the result.
  - D. Gossip ensnares the soul of the gossiper. “A fool’s mouth is his destruction and his lips are the snare of his soul.” (Prov. 18:7). The person who gossips is digging his own grave with his mouth.
  - E. Gossip is classed with the worst of evil. It is mentioned with such sins as fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, murder, deceit, malignity, haters of God, etc. (Rom. 1:20-30).
  - F. Gossip is dangerous. “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: Therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Prov. 20:19). Such is not of a faithful spirit.
  - G. The remedy: “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips” (Psa. 141:3). The psalmist was having difficulty in guarding his words. David’s weakness is quite common today.

- V. Conclusion  
Clearly those who engage in these sins will not be saved (Rom. 1:29-30). “Haters of God” such is the terribleness of it.

Before telling something we should always ask ourselves three questions:

1. Is it true? (Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:8)
2. Will saying this accomplish good and not evil? (Eph. 4:29)
3. Can I prove it if called upon to do so? You might have to! (I Thess. 5:21)

- ❖ Sometimes we say, “Don’t say anything about someone unless it is nice.” – a good general rule but not universal. (If one commits sin or does evil, he may need to be confronted – Matt. 18:15; I Cor. 5).
- ❖ Don’t say anything unless you know they would want you to. A good general rule but not universal (Hyma – Philetus).
- ❖ A good way to kill gossip is to simply not give it an ear. Don’t encourage it (Prov. 26:20).

---

### **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*