

Try Good Instead of Gossip

To say that gossip is a damaging element of speech in our society would be an understatement. It can ruin reputations, end careers and destroy relationships.

As defined by *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia, gossip is idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. With the advent of the Internet, gossip is now widespread on an instant basis, from one place in the world to another. The term is sometimes used to specifically refer to the spreading of dirt and misinformation, as (for example), through excited discussion of scandals.

Gossip usually begins because a person feels a need for attention or revenge. A better way to get attention, however, is to speak and do good. The *best* revenge, according to biblical advice, is found in doing good to one's enemies



The following poem, written by R. Foreman and published in *Roper Family Poems*, puts the issue in perspective:

*If you were busy being kind,
Before you knew it you would find
You'd soon forget to think 'twas true
That someone was unkind to you.*

*If you were busy being glad
And cheering people who seem sad,
Although your heart might ache a bit,
You'd soon forget to notice it.*

*If you were busy being good,
And doing just the best you could,
You'd not have time to blame some man
Who's doing just the best he can.*

*If you were busy being true
To what you know you ought to do,
You'd be so busy you'd forget
The blunders of the folks you've met.*

*If you were busy being right,
You'd find yourself too busy quite
To criticize your brother long,
Because he's busy being wrong.*

(more)

And that's good advice. As an old-timer once observed, "One reason the dog has so many friends: he wags his tail instead of his tongue."

Choose today to stay busy showing kindness, spreading cheer and doing your best. You not only will have no time or temptation to gossip, but others will find little to gossip about in your life.

An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends (Proverbs 16:28 TLB).

– Beecher Hunter