

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been undergoing osteoporosis testing. She has been hurting much of this past week.

Ricky Ragsdale's cancer is in remission but he is still taking some treatments. Theresa Ragsdale has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Brenda Keisler will get her second neck treatment next week.

Adene Gray is in Fayetteville this weekend.

**Keep your brothers & sisters in mind**

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

story. A gossip will tell you only what he wants you to hear.

**It reveals a lack of love.** How can one say that he loves his brother or sister in Christ and then proceed to tell and/or listen to all of the dirt about them that can be dug up? Can one "smear" a brother and love him at the same time?

**It destroys friendship** (Proverbs 16:28; 17:9). Irreparable harm is often inflicted upon long-lasting relationships. The old hymn "Angry Words" states, "Love is much too pure and holy, Friendship is too sacred far, For a moment's reckless folly, Thus to desolate and mar."

Gossiping is an ugly, ungodly, deceitful and soul-destroying habit that, if you have it, must be broken, repented of and replaced with words that edify (Ephesians 4:29-32).

(Passing along rumors and unverifiable information also falls under the topic of gossip. Often I see Christians passing along negative information about political candidates and social issues without verifying its accuracy. Too often it has been false. Brethren this ought not be done. DLH)

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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# Seeking His Righteousness

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## Gossip

**Gene Taylor**

A talebearer is a person who circulates rumors that are either distortions of truth or outright lies which are designed to do mischief. God hates the one "who sows discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

A gossip has been variously defined as: (1) A newscaster without a sponsor. (2) A person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do as much damage. (3) One who turns an earful into a mouthful. (4) What no one claims to like but what everyone seems to enjoy.

In reality, gossip is telling and or listening to something uncomplimentary about another with the wrong intent or purpose.

Understand, though, every time



*You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the Lord.*

**Leviticus 19:16**



## Meet With Us

**Worship Services**

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

**Bible Classes**

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

[TannerSt.com](http://TannerSt.com)

information is exchanged about others is not necessarily gossip. False teachers, trouble-makers, etc., must be exposed and others must be warned concerning them (1Corinthians 11:1; 2Timothy 4:14-15).

### When Is It Gossip?

When we tell and/or listen to something uncomplimentary about someone with the attitude of entertainment. We are not telling or listening because we are sympathetic and want to help. We want to be entertained at someone else's expense. We want a good laugh over someone's weaknesses.

**When we tell and/or listen in order to build up our own ego.** Some people are perverted enough to make themselves feel big by trying to make others look small. "Look how bad or how stupid Joe is for doing so and so" really means "Look how good or how smart I am because I did not do such a stupid thing." The more gossips talk about another's mistakes and sins, the more they inflate their own egos.

**When we tell and/or listen in order to get revenge.** When we have been wronged, the Scriptures teach us to go to the offender and get things right (Matthew 18:15-17). The one who gossips would rather "get something on" the other person and spread it all around in order to have revenge. We need to remember that God will have the "last word" (Romans 12:19). And His last word to gossips will not be pleasant for them to hear.

**When we tell and/or listen for spite.** We do not like some person so we like to tell or hear about their failures or problems. Do we want to help them? Never! Would we rather spite them? Every chance we get! How many good names have been tarnished because of such malice?

## Store In My Heart

### Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Considering our last two verses have shown Jesus as foundation and ruler over the church, it should not surprise us to find this verse stating His ownership.

As Paul extends greetings in this letter we find a name which clearly shows the focus of the Church. The church is from Christ. The church is built on Christ. The church is controlled by Christ. No other name would give such deserved honor to the Founder and Head.

It is not proper to assign our own name to His Church and it is also not proper to assign His name to our human organizations. He built only one organization and gave it His name!

**When we tell and/or listen to something uncomplimentary about others just to "have something to say."** I once heard a preacher say, "Some think that they are being 'newsy' when they are actually being 'nosy' about other people's problems. They think they are 'passing the time' when actually they are only wasting time--theirs and others."

### What Gossip Does.

**It perpetuates lies that ought to have died.** The overwhelming majority of hurtful rumors are false (cf. Acts 21:21). Did you ever play the game "Gossip" at a party? It's the one where someone whispers something to a person at the head of the line who, in turn, whispers it to the one next in line, etc. If you have, you know that anything that is repeated several times is often inaccurately remembered and conveyed and does not resemble what was first said. Our memories are not infallible thus we perpetuate things which are not true. We should allow hurtful rumor to die (Proverbs 26:20).

**It assassinates character and makes innocent people suffer.** Innocent people are not only labeled but also libeled without just cause. When we have participated in ruining someone's good name, we have rendered them a grave injustice (Proverbs 22:1).

**Gossip can destroy the local church or make its work very difficult.** One man on a bulldozer in one short hour can pull down a sizable building that took many people much time to build. In like manner, one gossip can destroy in a very short time the years of labor good, honest people have invested in building up the body of Christ.

**It is usually one-sided, biased and extremely prejudicial** (Proverbs 18:17). Wrong conclusions are often reached when one hears only one side of a