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GOSSIP

I cannot stand gossip. So, let's define it: "Casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true."

I have seen gossip destroy lives. Often people confide something very personal to someone that they think is a friend, telling them not to share the information. Then that person they confided in, thinking it won't hurt to tell someone else shares the information with someone else, and they in turn do the same. It is like a snowball going down a hill, gathering more as it rushes down and crashes, often destroying the person talked about.

I have seen more gossip among people in ministry [men and women both] that I care to speak about. It seems that people want to hear the worst about others and never think about how it will hurt someone. Even if it is true, it can be demeaning to the one who is gossiped about.

One day a woman in our church that I was pastoring came to me and said, "My friend told me not to tell anyone, but you need to know about this situation."

I told her, "I don't want to hear it."

She insisted that I hear it, and I said very loudly, "No! If she told you not to say something, then keep your mouth shut!"

Now, she didn't appreciate that, but I had to stop her. God hates gossip. It is listed in scripture as one of the seven things he hates. Proverbs 6:18b-19 lets us know that. It says, pertaining to gossip, ***"18b ...feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."***

If you are prone to gossip, remember that God calls it an abomination and hates it. You should stop now, and repent. It could open a door allowing Satan to attack you.