

The Problem of Gossip (2)



Matthew 12:31-37

There is a part of our sinful human nature that takes delight in revealing some new thing to another person. It is pleasurable to give someone information that he is not aware of. Often there is no problem with this. Others often welcome knowing about a coming storm or an important news event. There is other information, however, which may be confidential or personal in nature about another person, and it may be unwise to reveal such. “A talebearer **revealeth** secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit **concealeth** the matter” (*Prov. 11:13*).

Am I one who **reveals** or one who **conceals**? I might say to another: “Listen, I’ve got something to share with you. Promise me you won’t tell anyone else about this. Would you like to hear it?” So I reveal the secret. Then that person goes to someone else and says, “Hey, I’ve got a secret to tell you, but promise me that you’ll tell no one else. It’s confidential.”

And if I later find out that this person revealed to someone else my confidential information, what can I then say? “I’m upset with you. You should not have spread my gossip! You should not have shared the secret that I revealed to you!” This would be confessing my own guilt!

The phone and social media are amazing innovations, yet they can be powerful tools for the gossipier: “What do you think about him? Did you know this about her? What have you heard about him? I just found out something about her that you don’t know,” etc.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth” (*Eph. 4:29*). “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart be acceptable (well-pleasing) in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength [my Rock], and my redeemer” (*Psalms 19:14*).

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