

EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A first century church in the 21st century"

Bible Reading Plan

Week 27

- 1 Kg 6; 2 Chr 9; 1 Tim 1
- 1 Kg 7; 2 Chr 4; 1 Tim 2
- 1 Kg 8; Ps 30, 44; 1 Tim 3
- 2 Chr 5-7; Ps 121; 1 Tim 4
- 1 Kg 9; 2 Chr 8; 1 Tim 5

Leading Services

Announcements: Ron V.

Morning:

Song Leader: Bill G.

Opening Prayer: Richard L.

Lord's Table: Larry L.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Brock G.

Evening:

Song Leader: Mike V.

Opening Prayer: Larry L.

Closing Prayer: Ben V.

Scripture Reading: Richard L.
(Zechariah 7:1-7)

Sermons

AM: Don't Neglect Your Salvation
PM: Don't Let Worship Be Common



Gossip

Concerning the temptations that may befall younger widows under certain circumstances, the apostle Paul writes, "And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not" (1 Tim. 5:13, NKJV). While the inspired apostle casts this sort of behavior in a negative light, some view it differently. For example, a recent news report titled, "Spread the word! Gossip can actually be good for you, Dartmouth researchers say" includes the following:

"In case you didn't hear, researchers at Dartmouth College have a secret to share with you. Despite its negative reputation, a new study finds gossip can actually be a good thing for people to spread. Study authors say gossip isn't just about passing on rumors and saying bad things about others. In fact, their report reveals it also serves to create social connections and even helps people learn new things about the world they haven't experienced for themselves.

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Is gossip good for you?

'Gossip is a complex form of communication that is often misunderstood,' says post-doctoral researcher Eshin Jolly in a media release. 'It can be a means of social and substantive connection beyond its typical negative connotation' (Chris Melore, Studyfinds.org).

Gossip is generally defined as: "idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others" (Dictionary.com) and "conversation or reports about other people's private lives that might be unkind, disapproving, or not true" (Cambridge Dictionary). The Bible refers to those who engage in this kind of talk as "talebearers" (Prov. 11:13), "gossips" (1 Tim. 5:13), and "whisperers" (Rom. 1:29). Is gossip actually a helpful and beneficial form of communication? What does the Bible say?

1. It destroys the speaker:

The inspired wise man writes, "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body" (Prov. 18:7-8). Also, "Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles" (21:23). When it comes to idle talk, including gossip, Jesus said, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37). The gossip will not go unpunished.

2. It destroys the lives of others:

Paul instructed the Christians in Thessalonica to "aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (1 Thess. 4:11). The truth is that lives and reputations are destroyed by those who intrude into the personal business of others, making public that which should be kept private. Jesus said, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). Those who would not want to be gossiped about should be careful to not gossip about others.

3. It destroys relationships:

The Bible says, "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends" (Prov. 16:28). Strife, discord, and division result from the spread of gossip. "Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases" (26:20). Friendships, family relationships, and even local churches are often destroyed by the spread of gossip.

Conclusion:

The solution to the problem of gossip is as follows: "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). From the Garden forward the devil has sought to repackage sin in order to present it as something that is good and beneficial to mankind. Do not be deceived: gossip is not good for you!

- David Dann