

## Gossip and the Ninth Commandment

For Years I've tried to admonish some of the people I care about against gossiping. Some think it's funny, some think it's harmless and some think it helps them get rid of anxieties. But the truth is that it is extremely harmful to everyone it touches, especially to the one gossiping.

The Ninth Commandment

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.' (Exodus 20:16)

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Here is the best message I've ever heard on the subject:

[bit.ly/2iU2TIF](http://bit.ly/2iU2TIF)

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Proverb 20 (NASB)

**Note:** See v. 19, below (emphasis adjusted)

### On Life and Conduct

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,  
And whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.  
<sup>2</sup> The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion;  
He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.  
<sup>3</sup> Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man,  
But any fool will quarrel.  
<sup>4</sup> The sluggard does not plow after the autumn,  
So he begs during the harvest and has nothing.  
<sup>5</sup> A plan in the heart of a man is *like* deep water,  
But a man of understanding draws it out.  
<sup>6</sup> Many a man proclaims his own loyalty,  
But who can find a trustworthy man?  
<sup>7</sup> A righteous man who walks in his integrity—  
How blessed are his sons after him.  
<sup>8</sup> A king who sits on the throne of justice  
Disperses all evil with his eyes.  
<sup>9</sup> Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart,  
I am pure from my sin"?  
<sup>10</sup> Differing weights and differing measures,  
Both of them are abominable to the LORD.  
<sup>11</sup> It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself  
If his conduct is pure and right.  
<sup>12</sup> The hearing ear and the seeing eye,  
The LORD has made both of them.  
<sup>13</sup> Do not love sleep, or you will become poor;  
Open your eyes, *and* you will be satisfied with food.  
<sup>14</sup> "Bad, bad," says the buyer,  
But when he goes his way, then he boasts.  
<sup>15</sup> There is gold, and an abundance of jewels;  
But the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing.  
<sup>16</sup> Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger;  
And for foreigners, hold him in pledge.

<sup>17</sup> Bread obtained by falsehood is sweet to a man,  
But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

<sup>18</sup> Prepare plans by consultation,  
And make war by wise guidance.

<sup>19</sup> He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets,  
Therefore do not associate with a gossip.

<sup>20</sup> He who curses his father or his mother,  
His lamp will go out in time of darkness.

<sup>21</sup> An inheritance gained hurriedly at the beginning  
Will not be blessed in the end.

<sup>22</sup> Do not say, "I will repay evil";  
Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

<sup>23</sup> Differing weights are an abomination to the LORD,  
And a false scale is not good.

<sup>24</sup> Man's steps are *ordained* by the LORD,  
How then can man understand his way?

<sup>25</sup> It is a trap for a man to say rashly, "It is holy!"  
And after the vows to make inquiry.

<sup>26</sup> A wise king winnows the wicked,  
And drives the *threshing* wheel over them.

<sup>27</sup> The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD,  
Searching all the innermost parts of his being.

<sup>28</sup> Loyalty and truth preserve the king,  
And he upholds his throne by righteousness.

<sup>29</sup> The glory of young men is their strength,  
And the honor of old men is their gray hair.

<sup>30</sup> Stripes that wound scour away evil,  
And strokes *reach* the innermost parts.

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Gossip is a clear violation of the Ninth Commandment. The reason the Lord abhors it is because of its detrimental affects (emotional), and effects (destructive to reputations), on everyone it touches. I pray that none of us perpetuate this well-established sin, especially using an excuse like "well everyone does it", or any other excuse to try to justify the temptation. Gossip is a wrongful act no matter how we may try to "slice it".

And I also pray that whenever we bear witness to someone else engaging in this kind of behavior that we will intervene on behalf of the victim(s). If confrontation seems unwise, then we can always pray to the Lord that He make the correction(s) in His own way(s) and in His right timing.

Blessings! I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack