

Gossip - cont.

This word is found in 1 Timothy 5:13 and 3 Jn. 10.

The word “infamy” (KJV) comes from the Hebrew *dib-bah*, meaning “slander,” “defaming,” “evil, malicious report,” or “calumny”. This word is used in Genesis 37:2; Numbers 13:32; 14:36,37 [note the true, but negative report]; Psalm 31:13-14; Proverbs 10:18; 25:10; Jeremiah 20:10; and Ezekiel 36:3.

Consider this quotes from the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*: “In its biblical setting, ‘gossip’ is used to designate the spreading of secrets or rumors, usually for the purpose of slander...” (Revised Edition, Vol. 2; page 536).

Friends, gossip is not simply passing on information that is true, but passing on information (true or false) with some bad motive (see “malicious gossip” in 2 Timothy 3:3; Titus 2:3; NASV). Gossip is easy to do, but that doesn’t make it right. Gossip will often find a willing ear to hear it, but that doesn’t make it right. Gossip is often found among many people (including Christians), but that doesn’t make it right. - *Chris Reeves*

- Scripture of the Week -

“Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate. ”
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 -

This week I will look into my Bible mirror and examine myself to see if I am really living according the faith of God’s word.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels, And they go down into the innermost parts of the body.

- Proverbs 18:8 -

One who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a gossip.

- Proverbs 20:19 -

For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no gossip, quarreling quiets down.

- Proverbs 26:20 -

people having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice; they are gossips

- Romans 1:29 -

For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish ... that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, selfishness, slanders, gossip, arrogance

- 2 Corinthians 12:20 -

At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also they become gossips and busybodies...

- 1 Timothy 5:13 -

Gossip in the Bible

The word “gossip” is not found in some versions of the Bible like the King James Version (KJV). Words like “whisperer” “talebearer,” “tattler,” or “infamy” are used in its place. Other Bible versions, however, do use the word “gossip” (NASV, etc.). This article focuses on some of the Bible passages and definitions related to the sin of gossip.



What is Gossip?

The word “whisperer” (KJV) comes from the Hebrew *lah-ghash*, meaning “whisper,” “mumble,” or “secretive talk”. This word is found in Psalm 41:7; 58:5; and 2 Samuel 12:19. The Hebrew *neer-gahn*, means “to roll to pieces; a slanderer; backbite; whisper maliciously; a per-

son who harms others verbally and falsely”. This word is found in Proverbs 16:28.

In the New Testament, the word “whisperer” (KJV) comes from the Greek *psithuristes* and *psithurismos* meaning a “secret slandering;” or “detractor”. This word is found in Romans 1:29 and 2 Corinthians 12:20.

The word “talebearer” (KJV) comes from the Hebrew *rah-cheel*, meaning “a scandal-monger (as travelling about),” “slander,” “slanderous informer,” “spreading rumors or falsities;” or “defamer”. This word is found in Leviticus 9:16; Proverbs 11:13; 20:19; Jeremiah 6:28; 9:4; and Ezekiel 22:9 (“*men that carry tales,*” KJV). The Hebrew *neer-gahn* means “to roll to pieces, a slanderer”. This word is found in Proverbs 18:8 and 26:20, 22.

In the New Testament, the word “tattler” (KJV) comes from the Greek *phluaros*, meaning [lit. boil up, bubble up] “to babble,” “empty talk;” and the Greek *phluareo*, “to prate against,” “utter nonsense,” or “make empty, unjustified charges”. - cont.