



## Gossip: The Secret Destroyer

Proverbs 18:21 (ESV)

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

### I. USS Gossip:

#### 1. Gossip destroys our walk with God.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NIV)

*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: <sup>17</sup> haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, <sup>19</sup> a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

- Gossip demonstrates a total disregard for God's command to love one another. (John 13:35)
- Gossip feeds our flesh. (Proverbs 26:22)
- The root of gossip is pride. (James 4:6b)

#### 2. Gossip destroys trust. (Proverbs 16:28; Proverbs 25:9-10)

### 3. Gossip destroys testimonies. (Genesis 9:18-28)

- Gossip is making a private matter public. (Romans 4:7-8)

Gossip is uncovering something that God has covered.

### II. Battle Plan to Destroy Gossip:

#### 1. Develop a deep conviction about gossip! (Romans 1:28-31)

#### 2. Talk less.

Proverbs 10:19 (NASB)

*When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*

#### 3. Refuse to listen to gossip.

Proverbs 17:4 (NLT)

*Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.*

- Without an audience gossip dies.

#### 4. Talk to the person not about the person.

Proverbs 25:9-10 (ESV)

*Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, <sup>10</sup> lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.*