

Gossip - idle talk or rumor, a casual conversation. The O.T. indicates this is a person who rushes around telling stories. A "whisperer." or "babbler." The gossip whispers poisonous reports in someone's ear in private that he or she would not dare to say in front of the person talked about. in 2 Timothy 3:3 and Titus 2:3, the word is translated "malicious gossip" or "slandorous." This is from the Greek word for "false accuser."

Oswald Chambers: "Don't be a busybody in other men's matters. A gossip is not always the bad person he is made out to be, those who listen and don't talk are the dangerous folk." "Scandal should be treated as you treat mud on your clothes. If you try and deal with it while it is wet, you rub the mud into the texture, but if you leave it till it is dry you can flick it off with a touch, it is gone without a trace. Leave scandal alone, never touch it."

Gossip

Mature Response	Biblical Basis	Correct Discipline
1. Acknowledge that gossip is my own sin and one that God despises.	• Jms.3	1. Determine what the problem is. Is she gossiping because she is just annoyed? a) if so, she must realize that her focus is not on others but on herself.
2. Discover the root cause for why I want to gossip.		• have her list out good qualities of that person.
3. Plan ahead and ask God for ideas of questions that would keep the conversation positive.	• Rom.13:14	• have her list ways to serve and act on them.
4. God wants me to concentrate on Phil.4:8 -- every quality, not only that it is true.	• Phil.4:8	
5. Realize that gossip and agape love are totally incompatible.	• I Cor.13:7	2. If it really is an issue, ask her if she's gone to the person and talked to her.
Any negative emotion which blocks compassion is sinful.	• Rom.12:9ff Rom.13:8	a) if she hasn't, she must (Mt.18:15) b) if she says she has, ask her if it was resolved. If she said it was, ask her why she is choosing to continue to talk about it. • she must forgive the person in her heart.