



## THE POWER OF GOSSIP

J.J. Turner, Ph.D. ©

What is faster than a speeding bullet; more power than a locomotive? No, it's not Superman. It's not a bird or plane. It is gossip. A five-year-old "preacher" lined his friends up on the curb, playing church, and gravely announced, "*This morning we will preach the gossip.*" Sadly, this is true in a lot of churches: gossip is spread quicker than the gospel.

There are more passages in the Bible on gossip than on the Lord's Supper and baptism; yet, we neglect the subject in teaching and in accountability. Someone has said that a gossip is one who talks too much about others. A bore is one who talks too much about himself. A wise man is one who talks little but says much.

There is negative power in gossip. Solomon wrote: "*Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases*" (Prov. 26:20). Here are a few of the things caused by gossip:

1. Gossip is not helpful in building a Christ-like life.
2. Gossip doesn't edify anyone.
3. Gossip violates trust and confidentiality.
4. Gossip creates unrest and suspicion.
5. Gossip destroys peace and harmony.
6. Gossip violates God's law of love.
7. Gossip reveals the true nature of a person.
8. Gossip destroys or prevents friendship.
9. Gossip destroys reputations.
10. Gossip destroys credibility.
11. Gossip creates a company of complainers and fault-finders.



12. Gossip is an enemy of “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).
13. Gossip violates Scripture (Matt. 18:15-21).
14. Gossip is a tool of Satan.

We must guard our hearts and ears against gossip. Paul wrote, *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to hearers”* (Eph. 4:29). Gossip is a very subtle thing. Many times it comes to church in the guise of concern for others but in the end does more harm than good. Mother was right: *“If you can’t say something good about a person don’t say anything at all.”* **Would you like for the person you are talking about to overhear your words?**