**Gossip**

**Tattlers also and busybodies,**

**Speaking things which they ought not.**

***(1 Timothy 5:13)***

**A gossip always gets caught in his own mouth-trap. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 144)***

**In our appetite for gossip, we tend to gobble down everything before us, only to find, too late, that it is our ideals we have consumed, and we have not been enlarged by the feasts but only diminished. *(Pico Iyer, in Time magazine)***

**There is nothing busier than an idle rumor. *(Herbert V. Prochnow, in The New Speaker’s Treasury of Wit and Wisdom)***

**Movie producer Frank Yablans claims the Concorde is so fast that he took it from Europe and got back ahead of the gossip. *(Earl Wilson, Field Newspaper Syndicate)***

**Gossip is that which no one claims to like – but everybody enjoys. *(Joseph Conrad)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The difference between gossip and news is whether you hear it or tell it. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**The difference between news and gossip lies in whether you raise your voice or lower it. *(Franklin P. Jones, in The Wall Street Journal)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**She doesn't like to repeat gossip, but what else can you do with it? *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**Of every ten persons who talk about you, nine will say something bad, and the tenth will say something good in a bad way. *(Antoine Rivarol)***

**Gossip, unlike river water, flows both ways. *(Michael Korda, in Power!)***

**Gossips and lying go together. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**The good news on gossip: Don’t feel guilty about engaging in office gossip, said Bryan Lufkin in BBC.com. “As long as it’s not malicious, it can serve practical, positive purposes.” A 2019 study found that workers gossip an average of 52 minutes a day. Most of the conversations “weren’t positive or negative, but neutral.” This chatter can help people make sense of their environment, says management expert Shannon Taylor, and check if they’re “perceiving the world in the same way as other colleagues and co-workers.” Talking about a strong-arming boss or a lazy team can warn people about “dangerous others,” says psychologist Elena Martinescu, and bring colleagues closer as they “realize they have shared values and experiences.” Overall, Martinescu says, “gossip is a good thing.” *(The Week magazine, September 10 / September 17, 2021)***

**Gossip is like grapefruit – it has to be juicy to be good. *(Mary H. Waldrip, in Dawson County, Georgia, Advertiser and News)***

**Half the evil in the world is gossip started by good people. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**Gossip: When you hear something you like about someone you don’t. *(Earl Wilson)***

**Most history is just gossip that has grown old gracefully. *(Sydney J. Harris, Field Newspaper Syndicate)***

**Not everyone repeats gossip. Some improve it. *(Franklin P. Jones, in The Wall Street Journal)***

**At the office: "She used to be a gossip. Now she's an information specialist." *(Jim Berry, Newspaper Enterprise Association)***

**All history is gossip. *(John F. Kennedy)***

**It’s perfectly amazing how quickly a little gossip will divert attention from an intellectual conversation. *(The William Feather Magazine)***

**Men gossip less than women, but mean it. *(Mignon McLaughlin, in The Atlantic Monthly)***

**The more interesting the gossip, the more likely it is to be untrue. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Gossip needn’t be false to be evil – there’s a lot of truth that shouldn’t be passed around. *(Frank A. Clark, Al Smith Feature Service)***

**Gossip: A negative developed and enlarged. (*Unity of Springfield newsletter)***

**I will never repeat gossip, so please listen carefully the first time. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Gossip is just news running ahead of itself in a red satin dress. *(Liz Smith, columnist)***

**I overheard my mother passing along to my father a newsy tidbit concerning a neighbor. "You know you shouldn't repeat stories about others," I said with mock seriousness. "That makes you a gossip." "I'm not a gossip!" she snapped back. "I'm a news analyst." *(James L. Savage, in Reader's Digest)***

**A gossip is a newscaster without the sponsor. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**No gossip ever dies away entirely, if many people voice it: it, too, is a king of divinity. *(Hesiod)***

**Gossip is the opiate of the oppressed. *(Erica Jong)***

**People now listen to gossip as if that’s the truth, but they’ll read news in the newspaper and think it must be a lie. *(Harvey Fierstein, in Time magazine)***

**A gossip is a person who suffers from acute indiscretion. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**Gossip is the poison of people with small minds and great inferiority feelings. Gossip is the most deadly microbe. It has neither legs nor wings. It is composed entirely of tales, and most of them have stings. *(Morris Mandel, in The Jewish Press)***

**Our minister was once assigned to a town in which the post office provided the community gossip. For about six weeks, he had the feeling that people were laughing at him behind his back. Finally he asked – and learned that the source of the humor was a postcard sent him by a member of his former parish. She had written: “This new preacher is okay, but he doesn’t hold me the way you did.” *(William L. Dike, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A thought to remember: If you promise not to repeat something, does that mean you can tell it only once? *(Reminisce magazine)***

**The sewing circle -- the Protestant confessional where each one confesses, not her own sins, but the sins of her neighbors. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

**In Old England and Scotland, women could be gagged for the offense of gossiping. The law did not apply to men, who could be as obnoxious as they liked. A gossip was sometimes punished with the branks, a metal cage that fits over the head, with a metal plate that was placed on top of the tongue to prevent speaking. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 242)***

**Gossip: A person who puts two and two together – whether they are or not. *(Mary McCoy)***

**Rumor travels faster, but it don’t stay put as long as truth. *(Will Rogers, in New York Times)***

**Message on a church bulletin-board in Kingman, Kansas: "At the latest count, gossip was running down more people than automobiles." *(Mrs. Ralph E. Shafer, in Christian Herald)***

**People never gossip about the secret virtues of others. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**What people say behind your back is your standing in the community. *(Edgar Watson Howe, journalist)***

**The seductive power of rumor: When people hear nasty gossip, they put so much stock in it that they'll even ignore the evidence of their own eyes or ears, says The New York Times. Evolutionary biologists designed an experiment to test the power of gossip: A philanthropy game allowed players to give other players money based on a recipient's rumored reputation. When the players were told a recipient was generous and friendly to other players, they were far more likely to give that person money. Conversely, when the recipient's reputation was that of a "Scrooge," other players were far less likely to give him money. No surprise there. But this pattern remained true even when the players were able to see written records showing that the supposedly cheap recipient had been quite generous or that the generous person had been miserly, "People only saw the gossip," says researcher Ralf Sommerfeld of Germany's Max Planck Institute. "They really reacted to it." Human beings, he says, appear to be wired to base their decisions on rumors, gossip, and what other people say -- not on a rational assessment of the evidence. *(The Week magazine, November 2, 2007)***

**Socrates, in an anonymous anecdote about gossip: “Have you heard, O Socrates?” “Just a moment, friend,” said the sage. “Have you made sure that all you are going to tell me is true?” “Well, no. I just heard others say it.” “I see. Then we can scarcely bother with it unless it is something good. Will it stand the test of goodness?” “Oh, no, indeed. On the contrary.” “Hmm. Perhaps, somehow, it is necessary that I know this in order to prevent harm to others.” “Well, no.” “Very well, then,” said Socrates. “Let us forget about it. There are so many worthwhile things in life; we can’t afford to bother with what is so worthless as to be neither true nor good nor needful.” *(The Liguorian)***

**It’s gossip, some say, when you hear something you like about somebody you don’t. *(L. M. Boyd)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The newly-saved farmer missed several Sunday church services. When the pastor visited him, he said he was doing his spring plowing. The pastor said to him, “Do you think it’s good to be working on Sunday and missing church?” The farmer responded, “I’m plowing far from the barn, and no one driving by can see me.” The pastor then said, “But God can see you.” To this the farmer replied, “I know, but He doesn’t gossip.” It’s amazing how few people can keep a secret. Some are like the person who said, “I don’t repeat gossip – I tell it right the first time.” Any type of gossip is wrong in the sight of the Lord. *(Croft M. Pentz, in Pulpit Helps)***

**A gossip tells things before you have a chance to tell them. *(Bob Phillips, in Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings, p. 145)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Those who gossip to you about others will gossip to others about you. *(Bits & Pieces) 39011***

**Gossip: The only thing that travels faster than E-mail. *(Angie Papadakis)***

**Show me someone who never gossips, and I’ll show you someone who isn’t interested in people. *(Barbara Walters)***

**Who gossips to you will gossip of you. *(Turkish proverb)***

**Why we love gossip: There’s a sound evolutionary basis for why the National Enquirer and TMZ.com are so popular. A new study shows that humans are hardwired to pay special attention to scandals and other negative information about other people. Researchers at Northeastern University showed volunteers an array of faces, some of which were linked to negative gossip, such as “threw a chair at his classmate.” They then presented a series of those faces to just one eye of each subject, while the other eye viewed an unrelated image. The brain can handle only one image at a time, and when faces that were linked to ugly rumors appeared, the subjects’ gazes lingered longer on those than on ones they’d been led to consider nice or neutral. That reflex probably exists “for good evolutionary reasons,” Frank McAndrew, a psychology professor at Knox College, tells NPR.com. Heeding negative gossip probably helped early humans avoid untrustworthy or threatening members of their own tribe or other tribes. “Our intense interest in gossip is not really a character flaw,”McAndrew says. “It’s a tool for survival.” *(The Week magazine, June 10, 2011)***

**Scandal is gossip made tedious by morality. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way that leaves practically nothing unsaid. *(Walter Winchell, journalist)***

**When women gossip, we get called bitchy; but when men do it’s called a podcast. *(Sikisa Bostwick-Bames, in The Telegraph)***

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