

**MAY, 2021**



*"If you think well of others, you will also speak well of others and to others. From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. If your heart is full of love, you will speak of love." ~Mother Teresa*

Have you ever noticed at the cashiers' register all the tabloids? Yes, one gossip story after another. Gossiping has become an American pastime. Yet, in all honesty, there is nothing new under the sun, gossiping was a favorite pastime for those who lived in ancient times as well. A few weeks ago, I came across an ancient Greek manuscript, 2300-years-old, gossiping about Socrates and his wife. This is how it reads, "Wife: Guests are coming but we have no cups. Socrates: Don't worry, if they are cultured, they won't care, if not, we don't care about them." I hope you can pick up the snobbery in Socrates' statement.

Some 2000-years ago, gossip had become such a problem in the church, yes, in the church, that we can find many passages about the evil and harm of gossip. The Apostle Paul felt gossip was such an evil thing he placed gossip in the same category as murder and God-haters (Romans 1:29-32) and he believed gossipers were damned to hell. Let's be clear, the Apostle Paul was known for using some pretty harsh language, but all in all, the authors of the Bible all agree, gossip is diametrically opposed to godly living.

I understand, everyone else is doing it, so what's the harm? Believe me, anyone who has been on the receiving end of gossip can tell you, it is harmful. George Harrison once said, "Gossip is the Devil's radio!" and he is right. Gossiping about another person is beneficial to no one but the "devil". All you are doing is becoming the mouthpiece for evil in its fullness. For this reason, the Bible says, Romans 12:10, *"love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor."* How do you outdo one another in showing honor? First, refuse to gossip about anyone. Second, speak only kind and uplifting words about others, even those who everyone else is cutting down. Gossiper: "Did you hear about Bob?" You: "Yes, I did. Bob is a good man and God loves him so much and so do I."

Today, let's chose the life of love by speaking well of others. Let's outdo one another.

Blessings,  
Brett