

# “The Gossips”

By Norman Rockwell



# THE DEVIL'S RADIO



**GOSSIP AND SLANDER**



# The Nature of Gossip & Slander

- **GOSSIP**

- **Defined:**

Idle talk or rumor, especially about the personal or private affairs of others

↙ a vain, thoughtless, useless word; a word that accomplishes no good

(Matt. 12:36)

(Prov. 11:13) - “talebearer”  
(Prov. 16:28) - “whisperer”

↙ ↘ NIV - “gossip”



# The Nature of Gossip & Slander

- **GOSSIP**

- **Practical Definition/Scriptural Examples:**

**(Prov. 11:13) - Betraying a confidence.**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 5:13) - Saying things they ought not.**



# The Nature of Gossip & Slander

- **SLANDER**

- **Defined:**

**The utterance of false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage another's reputation**

**A false spoken statement that causes people to have a bad opinion of someone**



# The Nature of Gossip & Slander

- **SLANDER**

- **Practical Definition/Scriptural Examples:**

**(Gen. 3:4, 5) - Planting seeds of doubt; insinuations.**

**Planting seeds of negativity amongst positive comments.**



# The Effects of Gossip & Slander

- **SEPARATES CLOSE FRIENDS**
- **‘BFF’ To Estrangement**  
(Prov. 11:13; 16:28)
- **Within This Congregation?**



# The Effects of Gossip & Slander

- **CAUSES STRIFE**

- **As We Would Expect**

- **Within This Congregation?**

**(Rom. 12:18; 14:19; Heb. 12:14; Jas. 3:10)**





# Preventing Gossip & Slander

- **DON'T PARTICIPATE!**
- **Don't Listen, Don't Tolerate It**  
(Lev. 19:16; Prov. 6:19)
- **Don't Repeat It**  
(Prov. 18:13; Eccl. 5:13; Prov. 10:19)



# Preventing Gossip & Slander

- **SPEAK WORTHWHILE WORDS**

- **Edifying Words**

**(Eph. 4:29-32)**

- **THINK Before You Speak**

**(Phlp. 4:8)**



# Preventing Gossip & Slander

- **SPEAK TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE**

- **If Offended...**

**(Matt. 18:15)**

- **‘Need-To-Know-Basis’**



# Preventing Gossip & Slander

- **INCREASE YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER**

- **Characteristics of Love**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 13:4-8)**

- **Remember the 'Golden Rule'**

**(Matt. 7:12)**

