

Pastor's Pen

Gossip!

"A perverse man spreads strife, And a whisperer separates close companions.: Proverbs 16:28

It is easy to point out the sin in others while overlooking it in our lives. We can point to sins like murder, rape, robbery, homosexuality, adultery, and so on and give a pass to the "lesser sins." There is one big problem with that way of thinking. All sin displeases God, even the "lesser" ones.

Paul writes to the church in Rome, "And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind, to do those things which are not proper, having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips," (Romans 1:28-29). Do you notice that God mentions gossip right along with wickedness and murder? We might think that gossip does not belong in the same category as murder, but we would be wrong. Think about your own life and how you have been hurt by malicious gossip.

The Hebrew word translated as "gossip" in the Old Testament is defined as "one who reveals secrets, one who goes about as a talebearer or scandal-monger." An individual who has privileged information about people and proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it is spreading gossip. Oxford defines gossip as "informal talk or stories about other people's private lives, which may be unkind or not true."

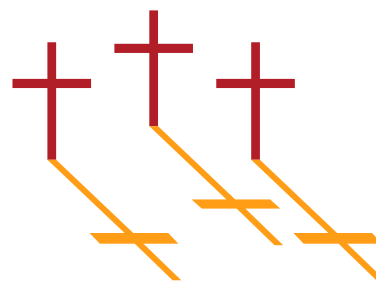
Proverbs says, **"A perverse man spreads strife, And a whisperer separates close companions."** We need to guard our tongues and avoid spreading gossip. When you think someone is telling you gossip, there is one sure way to stop the conversation dead in its tracks: Ask the person telling you the information, "Why are you telling me this?"

When you are getting ready to tell someone something about another person, you need to ask yourself why you are telling this to this individual. I have found that these two questions will stop gossip in its tracks.

Close friendships have been ruined over a misunderstanding that started with gossip. Those who engage in this behavior do nothing but stir up trouble and cause anger, bitterness, and pain among friends. If you have an issue with a brother or sister in Christ go to that brother so you can make

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"Whenever you put happiness before righteousness, you will be doomed to misery. That is the great message of the Bible from beginning to end. They alone are truly happy who are seeking to be righteous."

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Grace Gems

If we were more like Christ!

-Charles Spurgeon

"It is enough for the disciple that he be like his master."
Matthew 10:25

When our Lord was on earth, what was the treatment He received? Were His claims acknowledged, His instructions followed, and His perfections worshiped, by those whom He came to bless? No; "He was despised and rejected of men." Outside the camp was His place; cross-bearing was His occupation. Did the world yield him solace and rest? "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has no where to lay His head." This inhospitable world afforded Him no shelter: it cast Him out and crucified him.

If you are a follower of Jesus, and maintain a consistent, Christ-like walk and conversation, you must expect the same treatment from the world.

They will treat you as they treated the Savior—they will despise you. Do not dream not that worldlings will admire you; or that the more holy and the more Christ-like you are, the more peaceably people will act towards you. They prized not the polished gem, how should they value the jewel in the rough?

"If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call those of His household?"

If we were more like Christ, we would be more hated by His enemies! It is a sad dishonor to a child of God to be the world's favorite. It is a very ill omen to hear a wicked world clap its hands and shout, "Well done!" to the Christian man. When the unrighteous give him their approbation, he should begin to look to his character, and wonder whether he has not been doing wrong.

Let us be true to our Master, and have no friendship with a blind and base world which scorns and rejects Him. Far be it from us to seek a coronet of honor, where our Lord found a crown of thorns!

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first."
John 15:18

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted!" 2 Timothy 3:12

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
All Family Groups will resume on
September 19, 2024



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!



Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 09/15/2024

General Offering \$10,413.75
Building Fund \$2,807.00
Uganda Missions \$195.00
Benevolence \$70.00

Total.....\$13,485.75
Attendance 225
Online24

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

Sept 22, 2024

