

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS  
F2022-WEEK 2  
9/11/22

**Getting Started with a Warm-Up:**

- How do you feel when someone asks you, “Can I tell you a secret?”. And what if they ask you, “Can you keep a secret?”
  
- How do you discern gossip from real news on social media platforms?

**Getting Down to Business:**

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

**1) Scripture/Observation:**

- A. Read Prov. 18:8. Why does gossip draw our attention?

“Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one’s heart.” (Prov. 18:8 NLT)

V.8. this is a comment on human nature, which likes to listen to whispered information about others.

(Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 9/8/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs+18%3A8&version=NLT>)

- B. Read 1 Peter 4:8. What is at the root of gossip? (Hint: Where is your love directed towards, yourself or others? Are you desiring self-promotion?)

“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.” (1 Peter 4:8 NLT)

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If loving relationships depend on grace in times of calm, how much more in times of turmoil. Especially when Christians are abused and pressured because of their faith, nothing is more important than holding each other in fervent love (4:8). In the face of hostility, mutual love will help the community remain free from sin (4:8) (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 9/8/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4%3A8+&version=NLI>)

C. Read Jas. 1:26. What is the first step in preventing gossiping from starting?

“If you claim to be religious but don’t control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.” (Jas. 1:26 NLT)

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V 26–27: TAMED TONGUE Only someone walking with God can have his tongue tamed. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 9/8/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jas.+1%3A26-27&version=NLT>)

D. Read Eph. 4:29. Is it possible to share information with others about someone in need without gossiping? How? (Hint: Can you and others care about someone even when you don’t know their circumstances? Remember what your intentions are in wanting to help others.)

“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Eph. 4:29 NLT)

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4:25–5:5 Paul outlines six concrete ways that Christians “put off” their old lives and “put on” life in Christ: they must turn from lying to telling the truth (4:25, 26);

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from uncontrolled anger to self-control (4:26, 27); from stealing to useful labor (4:28); from harmful to helpful speech (4:29, 30); from bitterness to love (4:31–5:2); and from unrestrained sexual desires to a thankful acknowledgement of God's good gifts (5:3–5). In each case, Paul offers a reason for the change from old to new.. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 9/8/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Eph.+4%3A29+&version=NLT>)

**2) Application:** Read Prov. 26:20. How will you strategically protect your conversations from gossip?

“Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.” (Prov. 26:20 NLT)

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Vv.20, 21. Gossip fans the fires of quarrels. (Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 9/8/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Prov.+26%3A20&version=NLT>)

**3) Prayer:** Gossip is like a fire that is out of control. It always brings destruction. As you pray, ask the Lord to help you to eliminate any gossip from your conversation. Also, ask the Lord to help our church to be a gossip-free place.