



...well, Johnny told me that he heard that Elizabeth's Dad was a real jerk! And Shania said Bobby told her that Elizabeth's Dad made her do work around the house and he doesn't even pay her for it...



## The Truth about Gossip –

**“To belittle is to be little”**

I know... the title sounds like an oxymoron but the fact of the matter is ~ God's Word tells us the truth about gossiping.

In fact, in the book of Proverbs we learn that there are six things that the Lord hates (seven are an abomination) and if you consider all the steps involved in the process of gossip from the conception of the idea

through to the speaking of gossip ~ I think you'll find all of the stages named herein:

### **Proverbs 6:16-19 NKJV**

- <sup>16</sup>These six things the LORD hates,  
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:  
<sup>17</sup>A proud look,  
A lying tongue,  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
<sup>18</sup>A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
<sup>19</sup>A false witness who speaks lies,  
And one who sows discord among brethren.

We are told in **Ephesians 4:29-32**

<sup>29</sup>Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup>And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

### **Romans 12:14-21 NKJV**

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.  
<sup>17</sup>Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine,

I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;  
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We have all felt the sting of sharp tongues and on at least one occasion we have probably allowed the enemy to work through us to tear down another. I've been guilty of this sin and I know all too well the pain it has caused.

Before we open our mouths to speak of another person we could ask:

Will these words edify and build up the party/parties or will they tear down?

Feeling justified? ~ Who among us is justified to cast the first stone?

Feeling self righteous? ~ "Well what they did was a sin so it needs to be known." That's not our job... We are told to confess our own sins to one another so we may be healed – not to confess other's sins for our own gain.

How can we grow as a body when a cancer such as this is eating away at us?

I want to encourage you that "YES" - We should be talking about each other – in prayer and petition in front of our Lord and not in front of a crowd.