

1 Peter 4:7-8

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Today's verse tells us that ***"love will cover a multitude of sins."*** Yet how many have more of a mindset of *"Love is license to gossip about other's sins."*

They think that I love him or her or care about them, so I need to tell others about the sin they are in... so they can pray for them or course.

If we prayed for others as much as we gossiped about others, I wonder how much more God would work in their lives? Yet we think by gossiping that it will get back around to the one we are gossiping about, and they will change. Or some do so because they think it makes them look better in the eyes of others and not as bad as that person they are gossiping about.

King Daivid wrote:

† **Psalm 15:1-3 (NLT2)** *Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends.*

If this is true, then why are so many gossiping after they get into the church? They treat Sunday as more of a gossip time in the house of the Lord, rather than a time to pray for, and minister to others. Some think, *"Well I really do need to tell others about them so they can pray for them."* Okay, if that is true, then go and get that person and bring them to those you are asking to pray for them so that they can say it with them standing there with you. If you can't do that, then it is probably because you are gossiping about that person, or telling half-truths, or hearsay or lies about him or her.

Maybe you are not a gossip, but you know those who are. The bible teaches us what to do when they try and bring their gossip to us.

† **Proverbs 20:19 (NLT2)** *A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatterers.*

Simply, get away from them. You know, the easiest way to not sin, is to walk or even run away from it. If someone is gossiping and you stand there and listen to it, you are partaking of their sin and being a part of it, even feeding their lust to gossip about others. But either tell them, *"Before you say another word about this person, let's go get them to make sure it is true."* Or you can just walk away, even in the middle of their conversation. Is that being rude? No, being rude is standing there and listening to them speak gossip about someone else.

- † **Romans 1:29 (NLT2)** *Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.*
- † **Proverbs 11:13 (NLT2)** *A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.*
- † **Proverbs 26:20 (NLT2)** *Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops.*