

# THE GIFT OF SPEECH, Pt 3

## Talebearing

### Christian Character in Action: Lesson 19

1 July 2022

**Lev 19:16** The Lord is against talebearing because it is very hurtful and very destructive.

**Prov 11:13** A talebearer is one who reveals the secrets of others.

- Husbands/wives ought not to voice their marriage complaints to others. That will only make matters worse.
- When friends tell you something in confidence or you learn something about your friend that nobody else knows, keep it to yourself.
- Ministers must never reveal the secrets of the people who come to them for help and counsel and prayer.

**Prov 10:12** Talebearing reveals your lack of love for someone. If you love and care for someone, you will keep their secrets. Love covereth all sins (1 Pet 4:8).

- Before you tell tales about someone's sins, consider the tales that could be told about your sins.

**Prov 17:9** Telling tales and revealing secrets can ruin the best of friendships. Just because it is true doesn't mean it has to be broadcast to others.

- Parents, your children will dread going to church if they know you have told everyone in church about their misdeeds. You can ask people to pray for your kids without revealing any private details of their transgressions.
  - The same rule applies to your marriage. Keep the details private. We can still pray for each other because God knows the details.

**Mat 18:15-17** According to the Lord Jesus, there WILL be times when a brother or sister is going to trespass against you (vs 15). He wants us to deal with the matter privately without bringing anyone else into the situation.

- If it becomes necessary to bring others into the matter, bring one or two people to be unbiased witnesses (vs 16). That means you will not tell them what has been done to you (that would be talebearing); let them witness the trespass for themselves.

- If the issue can't be solved in a private fashion, then "tell it unto the church" (vs 17).
- Your aim is to resolve the matter and gain back your brother (vs 15). You're not trying to win a battle and get people on your side.

**Prov 25:18** The tongue can be a harmful weapon that hurts people as much as a hammer, a sword, or an arrow. We need to keep it under control.

**Prov 20:19** We are instructed not to keep company with somebody who is buttering you up (flattery) so they can get some juicy information about you to spread around. Nobody wants to be around a talebearer.

**Prov 26:20** The more people you involve (through talebearing) in your problem with one individual, the more likely that strife grow larger until it becomes out of control (like adding wood to a fire).

**Prov 26:21** Strife could end if people would stop bringing it up again and again. Don't kindle strife.

**Prov 26:22** When someone confides in you and you betray their trust by spreading it around to others, you have created a very deep wound in that person who trusted you. They may never trust you again.

**Prov 26:23** If you have a bad heart, your burning lips will tell tales. Instead of your lips being useful and beneficial to others, they'll be as useless as a broken piece of pottery.