

THINK BIBLICALLY: RESPECTABLE SINS | GOSSIP

Proverbs 16:28 / Romans 1:29

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Respectable sins are sins we tolerate and overlook because we don't see them as a big deal.

Why Respectable Sins?

Luke 18:9-14

- We don't talk much about sin anymore.
2 Timothy 3:1-5 / 4:3-4

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

- We tend to spotlight certain sins and downplay others.
Luke 18:11-12

Luke 18:10-14

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' **13** But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' **14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

- We compare ourselves to others instead of measuring ourselves by God.
Luke 18:9-14

Thinking Biblically about Gossip

- Gossip is sharing unnecessary information about someone who isn't present - even if it's true.
Romans 1:28-30

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28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents

- Gossip and slander are close cousins.
Romans 1:29-30
- Gossip isn't really about facts - it's about the heart.
Proverbs 4:23 / Luke 6:43-45

Luke 6:43-44

43 For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, **44** for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

Luke 6:45

45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

- Gossip damages reputations and destroys relationships.
Proverbs 11:13 / 16:28 / 18:8 / 18:21 / 26:20

Proverbs 11:13

11 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

Proverbs 16:28

28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

Proverbs 18:8

8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

Proverbs 26:20

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.

Putting a Stop to Gossip

- Keep a close watch over your heart.
Proverbs 4:23

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

- Call it out when you see it.
Ephesians 5:11

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11 *Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*

Ephesians 4:25

25 *Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

- Refuse to listen to it when you hear it.
Ephesians 4:25

Ephesians 4:29

29 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

- Redirect the conversation.
Matthew 18:15 / Psalm 19:14

Psalm 19:14

14 *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*