

Gossip





Are you a **Gossip**?

Let's find out...

Gossip Quiz

(1) You and your friends are at a party. You see one of your friends smoking a joint. You:

- A. Pray for him.
- B. Add him to your youth group prayer list.
- C. Tell everyone at school.
- D. Tell a parent and pray for your friend.

(2) You walk by the magazine counter and see a headline about your favorite actress cheating on her boyfriend. You:

- A. Check your wallet. You must know the details!
- B. You're tempted, but you walk away.
- C. Leave the magazine, but check out the story online. You won't financially support those types of magazines.
- D. You walk away. Those magazines are junk.

Gossip Quiz

(3) You overhear your friend's boyfriend telling everyone lies about their date on Saturday. You:

- A. Confront him right there and tell him to take back the lies.
- B. Run and tell your friend.
- C. Post the story on MySpace or Facebook.
- D. Spread lies about him. Let's see how *he* likes it!

(4) Your friends are sitting around when one starts telling you what she heard one girl did at the party last weekend. You:

- A. Listen intently. Then call everyone you know. You can't keep a story that good quiet!
- B. Listen and discuss her actions with your friends.
- C. Get another drink while they finish talking about it.
- D. Tell them you don't feel comfortable talking about it and change the subject.

Gossip Quiz

(5) You and your friends usually talk about:

- A. Dating, friends, people at school.
- B. What's going on in your lives.
- C. Sports, school, movies, music.
- D. Celebrities.

(6) Your friend confides in you that she's pregnant. You:

- A. Tell everyone about it.
- B. Tell your parents, because you need to know how to deal with it.
- C. Post it in your Facebook status.
- D. Tell no one. Just pray to God what to do.

Gossip Quiz

(7) How many times a week do you hear yourself saying, “Did you hear about...?”

- A. At least once a day.
- B. 2 to 5.
- C. 1 to 2.
- D. Never (don't lie!).

Gossip Quiz

Scoring Key

(1) A=4, B=2, C=1, D=3

(2) A=1, B=3, C=2, D=4

(3) A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1

(4) A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4

(5) A=1, B=3, C=4, D=2

(6) A=1, B=3, C=2, D=4

(7) A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4

Add up your scores!

Gossip Quiz

7-14: The Gossip. You are a gossip. You thrive on gossip and spreading news about others. Yet watch out, because people are probably gossiping about you, too. If you're concerned about living as a Christian, you may want to take a closer look at what the Bible says about gossip and work on cutting it out of your life.

Gossip Quiz

15-21: **Wishy-Washy.** You don't gossip all the time, but it may be something that you need to work on. You may like to hear gossip more than you spread it. Maybe you like to read gossip magazines. Still, you may want to work on walking away from gossip as it starts so that you can be a better example to those around you.

Gossip Quiz

22-28: The Anti-Gossip. You are actively opposed to gossiping. You tend to see gossip for what it is and confront it. You know that what you says reflects Jesus and His Church, and you try to be more encouraging. You have a good understanding of what the Bible tells you about gossip, and you try to follow its teachings in your life.

Gossip

What is gossip?

Gossip: (1) *Rumor* or talk of a *personal*, or *intimate* nature. (2) A person who *habitually* spreads intimate or private rumors or *facts*. (3) A conversation involving *malicious* chatter or rumors about other people.

Gossip

What is gossip?

People often say, “it’s not gossip as long as it’s true,” but that isn’t correct. You can say something that is true, but still be gossiping!

Gossip

What is the difference between gossiping, and just sharing information?

(1) Intent. Gossipers often have the goal of building themselves up by making others look bad. They also like to appear as people who are always “in the know”.

(2) The type of information shared. Gossipers speak of the faults of others, or reveal potentially embarrassing details regarding the lives of others without their knowledge or approval. Even if they mean no harm, it is still gossip.

Gossip

What's so bad about gossip?

(1) It **hurts** people.

(2) It destroys your **credibility**.

(3) It turns you into a **judge**, which isn't your job.

Gossip

What's so bad about gossip?

Proverbs 11.13: "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret."

Romans 1.29: "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips."

Gossip

What's so bad about gossip?

1 Timothy 5.13: "Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to."

Matthew 7.1: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged."

Proverbs 18.8: "The words of gossip are like choice morsels, they go down to a man's inmost parts."

Gossip

So what should we do about gossip?

(1) If you hear gossip, don't pass it on.

(2) When you are faced with a statement that may or may not be gossip, check out the facts.

(3) To avoid gossip, focus instead on saying helpful and encouraging things.

Gossip

So what should we do about gossip?

Proverbs 26.20: “Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.”

Matthew 7.12: “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Ephesians 4.29: “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”