

GOD HAS SPACE FOR YOU

GOSSIP: What is it, really, and is it really all that bad?

Everyone's doing it, right? Women, especially, are noted for being gossips. But what is gossiping and what is conversation?

Webster's New World Dictionary defines it as: gossip n. *a person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors especially about the private affairs of others and such talk or rumors.*

Well, ladies, I think we're all guilty of indulging in gossip once or twice. We could just shrug our shoulders and say, "Since we all gossip, why worry about it? It's as natural as breathing. Besides, since the phone was invented, there's no way to stop women from idle conversation."

Come to think about it, I think gossip started long before handy cell phones arrived. Eve would have lost her sanity, I think, if she didn't have someone besides Adam with whom to engage in idle chatter. Her daughters, no doubt.

Ruby picked up the phone and heard, "Ruby! You'll never guess what happened!"

"What! What? Is this about Sandy?"

"Oh, you've already heard. Do you suppose it's true? I just can't believe she'd run off with another guy."

"Yeah, she and Paul always seemed like such a loving couple. I guess looks can be deceiving."

"We really should pray for them."

Is this gossip or just an exchange of information? Does the reminder to pray take their words out of the Gossip League?

We need to consider what scripture tells us in order to find the answer. II Corinthians 12:20 lumps together, "factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder". Proverbs warns against gossip many times such as: "A gossip betrays a confidence", 11:13; "a gossip separates close friends," 16:28; "without gossip a quarrel dies down", 26:20; "the words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts"; 26:22.

Gossip is not exchanging information, passing along news about friends or loved ones or discussing events in the life of the church. It happens when you betray a confidence, pass along rumors damaging or otherwise as well as

discussion that encourages quarreling among friends and associates. Gossip can best be identified when your words damage someone's reputation or character to satisfy an inner need of your own such as appearing important or being "in the know".

"Hi, Myrna, this is Gay. Have you heard the latest? Well, get this . . . Sandy left Paul."

"No! Really?"

"Yeah, and I hear she's involved in an affair with this guy that's kind of sleazy. I hear—well, just listen to this . . ."

"Go on, I'm dying to hear."

Now **that** is gossip. Avoid it!

Yes, we've all of us, no doubt, taken part in gossip at one time or another. Confession is called for when one comes to this realization. But when we in the church or the Christian community fear exchanging information thinking it is gossip, we do ourselves a disservice. There are times when it is right and proper to pass on pertinent information, even about others. Discernment comes as we allow God to "transform our minds" (Romans 12:2) and we learn to trust completely the Holy Spirit to lead us in His will.

SPACE FOR YOU

This newsletter exists for you, the reader in cyberspace. My wish is to create a space of interest, of fun, and of practicality. And I'd like to hear from you. Do you have a hard question you'd like answered? Do you want to contribute your 2 cents worth about this newsletter? Click here: bmluke@genuinejoyministries.org and tell me what you'd like me to know about you, about what you'd like included, and about what you don't like. I'm waiting to hear from you.

Do not lose
heart or be
afraid.
Jeremiah 51:46

THE FUNNY SPACE

The 10 Things Only Women Understand

10. Cat's facial expressions
9. The need for the same style of shoes in different colors.
8. Why bean sprouts aren't just weeds
7. Fat clothes
6. Taking a car trip without trying to beat your best time
5. The difference between beige, ecru, cream, off-white, and eggshell
4. Cutting your bangs to make them grow
3. Eyelash curlers
2. The inaccuracy of every bathroom scale ever made

AND, the Number One thing only women understand:

1. OTHER WOMEN

QUOTE SPACE

Books are
funny little portable
pieces of thought.
Susan Sontag



SPACE FOR TIPS

Uses for Lowly Vinegar

Prolong the life of flowers in a vase. Add two tablespoons of vinegar plus three tablespoons of sugar per quart of warm water.

Deter ants. Spray vinegar around door and window frames, under appliances, and along other known ant trails.

Fish bowl cleaner. Eliminate that ugly deposit in the gold fish tank by rubbing it with a cloth dipped in vinegar and rinsing well.

Relieve itching by using a cotton ball to dab mosquito and other bug bites with vinegar straight from the bottle.

Remove fruit stains from hands. Rub with vinegar.

Take grease off suede. Dip a toothbrush in vinegar and gently brush over grease spots.

For tender meat, add 1/4 cup vinegar and 1/4 cup water to the roasting pan and roast as usual. Leaves no vinegar taste.

BOOK SPACE

My Favorites

The Mitford Series by Jan Karon

Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

Mr. God This is Anna by Fynn

Men and Women in the Church by Sarah Sumner

Eden's Way by Beverly Money Luke

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis



Editor/Publisher: Beverly Money Luke
Genuine Joy Ministries
3879 E. 120th Avenue, PMB 246
Thornton, CO 80233
www.genuinejoyministries.org
Email: bmluke@genuinejoyministries.org