



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 18, 2008

Heart to Heart...

"For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may not find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances." (II Corinthians 12:20) "Being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, full of envy, murder strife, deceit, malice, they are gossips." (Romans 1:29) "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips..." (Titus 2:3) "Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things." (I Timothy 3:11) "But realize this, that in the last days difficult time will come. For men will be...unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips..." (II Timothy 3:1,3)

As we can see from God's holy word, the connection in all the above Scriptures is one thing: ***gossip!*** Gossip is defined as one who "prates (to tell or repeat) against another". It is one who is a "whisper" or a "secret slanderer". (Defined from Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.) The word *gossip* is synonymous with the word *backbiter!* A *backbiter* is one who will openly speak against another and does not care who they tell or hurt as long as they get to tell it. A *gossiper* will secretly tell certain ones for illicit purposes. Both are extremely destructive and condemned by the Lord. It will cost a person their soul.

Read the above verses again or look them up in your Bible. Look at the company gossip keeps and does not keep. Gossip and reverence do not go together. Gossip and faithfulness have no partnership. Gossip and temperance are opposite. There is no dignity in gossip. A gossiper does not love. Gossip is intimately acquainted with people that are irreconcilable (people that refuse to come together no matter what). Gossip joins hands with those who are unloving. Angry tempers, strife, jealousy and disputes all side with gossip. Unrighteousness, wickedness are listed with gossip. Gossip is a sinful, destructive practice and has no part in God or with God. I have known gossipers that truly believe they are in fellowship with the Lord but can speak about anyone behind their back or repeat rumors they hear. Truth does not matter to a gossiper. To a gossiper, truth to them is what they say and want others to hear. A gossiper controls what they want others to believe!

If you look closely at the verses above, three times the words "*malicious gossips*" are used. The words "*malicious gossips*" comes from the Greek word "*diabolos*." That is the exact word for the noun 'devil' (Rev. 12: 9)! The word "*diabolos*" means 'an accuser, to malign'.

With these thoughts in mind, when one gossips/slanders/whispers about another, who are they lining up with? If we listen to one who secretly or openly speaks against another, what position are we putting ourselves into? I pray we will stay away from gossip and those who gossip. The Lord does not approve and we should not approve. Gossip is very destructive and has destroyed many a righteous person. Think about it!!!

Brent