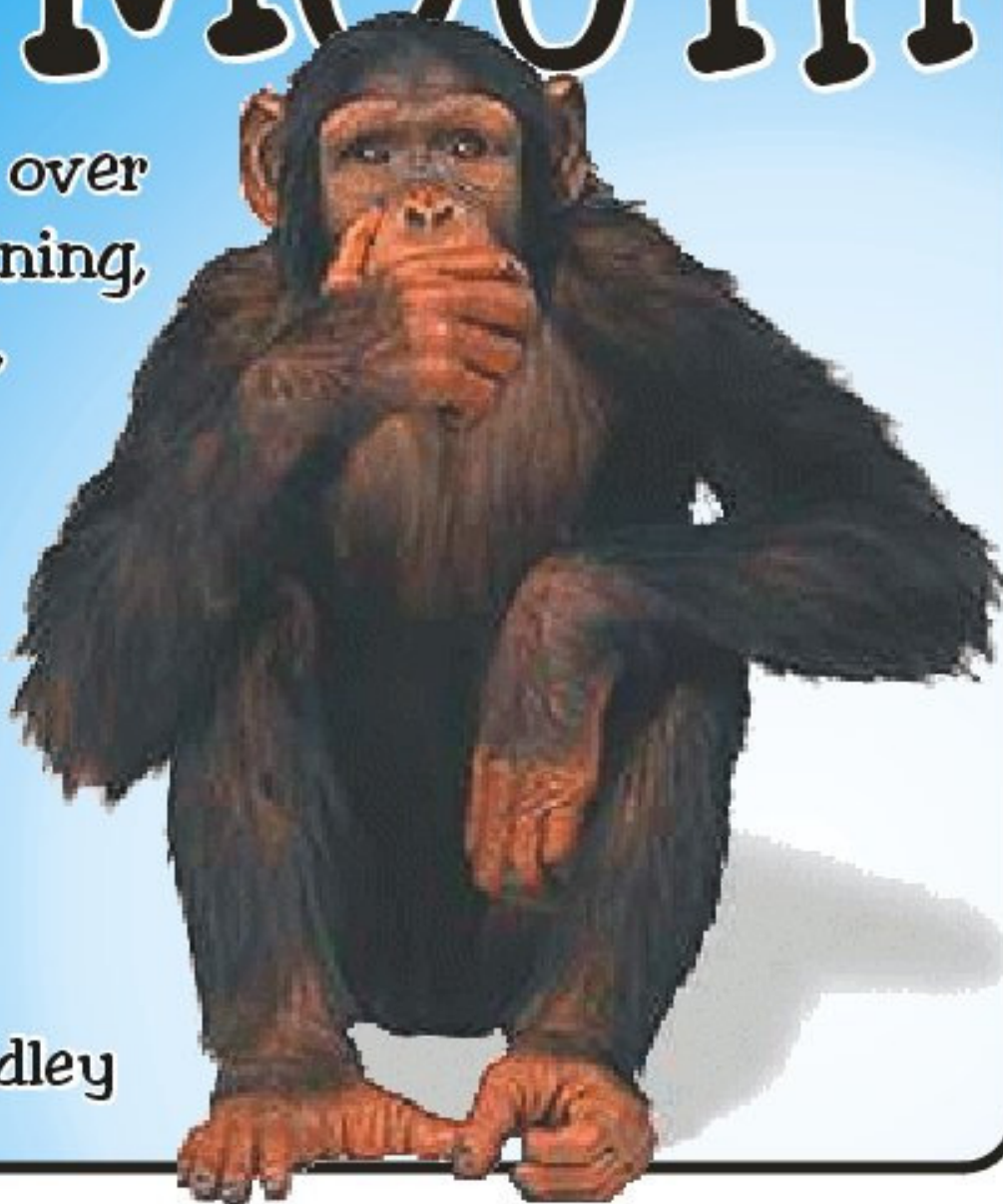


MANAGING THE MOUTH

Victory over
complaining,
arguing,
gossip,
and
other
poisons
of the
tongue

Reb Bradley



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FREEDOM FROM GRUMBLING AND COMPLAINING

Becoming Blameless and Pure Session 1

Philippians 2:14-15

I. If we are already "righteous" in Christ, why does Paul tell us we can *become* "blameless and pure" ?

A. By faith in Christ we are counted as blameless before

B. vs 15 -- By our _____ we become blameless before

II. What will help us as children of God to become blameless and pure?

Doing everything without

III. On what basis does God appeal to us to pursue blameless, pure behavior?

vs 15 -- On the basis of _____ honoring their
Eph 5:1, 8; Heb 12:7; 1 Pet 1:14; 1 John 3:2, 7, 10

IV. What does complaining demonstrate?

COMPLAINING goggusmos, gong-goos-mos'; to grumble or murmur; ie: to express dissatisfaction by fault-finding or criticism

A. A lack of

Not accepting another's _____ to make

Prov 19:3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.

B. A high importance placed upon one's

C. An excessive freedom to _____ – no _____ of the tongue

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. ... 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Prov 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Prov 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

D. A lack of desire to

V. What are the consequences of grumbling?

A. We will receive _____ from God

*James 5:9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, **or you will be judged.** The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.*

B. We will _____

1 Cor 10:9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

*Num 14:3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ... 26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: 27 "**How long will this wicked community grumble against me?** I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. 28 So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: 29 In this desert your bodies will **fall**--every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 **Not one of you will enter the land** I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 **But you--your bodies will fall** in this desert. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. (Psa 106:21-27)*

VI. What are the solutions to complaining?

A. _____ before God and others

Phil 2:4-5 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

B.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

C.

James 5:9-10 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

2 Cor 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

D.

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

FREEDOM FROM ARGUING

Becoming Blameless and Pure Sessions 2 & 3

Philippians 2:14-15

I. If we are **already** "righteous" in Christ, why does Paul tell us we can **become** "blameless and pure"?

A. By **faith** in Christ we are counted as blameless before **God**

B. vs 15 -- By our **behavior**, we become blameless before **others**

BLAMELESS amemptos, am'-emp-tos; without fault; unblamable; irreproachable

PURE akeraios, ak-er'-ah-yos; unmixed, unpolluted, undefiled

II. What will help us as children of God to become blameless and pure?

Doing everything without **complaining or arguing**

III. What does arguing demonstrate?

ARGUING dialogismos, dee-al-og-is-mos'; discussion, debate, or verbal dispute

A. A lack of

Not accepting another's _____ to make

Prov 19:13 A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.

Prov 21:9 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

Prov 21:19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.

Prov 27:15 A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day;

B. A high importance placed upon one's

IV. What are the causes for our tendency to argue, and how can we overcome the habit?

A.

Prov 29:22 An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

Prov 30:33 For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife."

SOLUTION: Find your _____ of anger and _____ it.

Prov 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

B.

Prov 10:12 Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

SOLUTION: Dip into God's _____ *1 Cor 4:5*

1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

C.

--

Eph 4:26 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold ... 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 ... 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

SOLUTION: yourself before God and

Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

D.

1.

--

*Prov 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
Prov 12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. 16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.
Prov 9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.*

SOLUTION: perceived insults

*Prov 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.
Prov 17:9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
Mat 5:39 "... If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."
Prov 17:14 Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.*

2.

*Prov 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.
Prov 14:29 A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.
Prov 16:32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.
Prov 19:11 A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

SOLUTION: your plans and your rights to God

Phil 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant ...

3.

-crediting, -reliant

*Prov 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.
James 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and **selfish ambition** in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth ... 16 For where you have envy and **selfish ambition**, there you find **disorder** and every evil practice.*

SOLUTION: Give all to God

1 Cor 10:31 So ... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

4. Fleshly

James 1:20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

SOLUTION: Trust in not your

Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

5. Love of

a. Love of a _____ -- (1 Cor 8:1)

Prov 17:19 He who loves a quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction.

SOLUTION: _____ to self. Repent of _____ habit

*Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, **brawling** and slander, along with every form of malice.*

[BRAWLING: krauge, krow-gay'; noisy conflict; like a raven's cry]

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

b. _____ arguments

1 Tim 6:4 he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

2 Tim 2:14 Keep reminding them of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen.

SOLUTION: _____ yourself and _____ if you find yourself entering foolish debates.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

c. _____ spirit

Prov 26:21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

Prov 22:10 Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended.

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

SOLUTION: Pursue _____ before God. _____ those who stir you up, if possible.

Prov 22:24-25 Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, 25 or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

E. _____ tongue -- _____ reactions

Prov 20:3 It is to a man's honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.

Prov 18:6 A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating.

Prov 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Prov 12:16 A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.

Prov 15:28 The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

James 3:2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. ... 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

SOLUTION: Consciously _____ yourself to _____ your tongue. Pursue

Prov 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Prov 29:11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Prov 26:4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Prov 17:27 A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered.

Prov 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.

FREEDOM FROM GOSSIP AND SLANDER

Becoming Blameless and Pure Session 4

Philippians 2:14-15

IV. What are the causes for our tendency to argue, and how can we overcome the habit? (cont'd...)

F. No desire to _____ others

Prov 18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Prov 1:22 "How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

Prov 18:13 He who answers before listening-- that is his folly and his shame.

SOLUTION: Make it your goal to hear the _____ of those who anger you.

James 1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

Eph 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.

G.

*1 Cor 3:1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly -- mere infants in Christ ... 3 **You are still carnal.** For since there is **jealousy and quarreling** among you, are you not carnal? Are you not acting like mere men?*

*Rom 13:13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in **dissension and jealousy.***

SOLUTION: Choose to _____ those of whom you are jealous. _____ upon them.

Luke 6:28 "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

V. What will result if we continue to practice argumentativeness?

A. We will _____ with the world

*Phil 2:15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you **shine like stars** in the universe*

B. We will _____ each other

*Prov 11:9 With his mouth the godless **destroys his neighbor**, but through knowledge the righteous escape.*

*Prov 12:18-19 Reckless words **pierce like a sword**, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.*

C. We will _____ the body of Christ

*Prov 11:11-12 Through the blessing of the upright **a city** is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it **is destroyed**. 12 A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.*

D. We will eventually _____ ourselves

*Prov 13:2-3 From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence. 3 He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will **come to ruin**.*

*Prov 14:3 A fool's talk brings **a rod to his back**, but the lips of the wise protect them.*

*Prov 18:6-7 A fool's lips **bring him strife**, and his mouth **invites a beating**. 7 A fool's mouth is his undoing, and his lips are **a snare to his soul**.*

VI. Let us avoid _____ and _____ which keep arguments
(See attached study on "Compassionate Gossip".)

Greek

blasphemeo, blas-fay-meh'-o; to vilify; talk against; to speak irreverently: speak evil of; blaspheme
katalaleo, kat-al-al-eh'-o; to put down; to be a maligner, i.e. to slander:--speak against (evil of).
katalalia, kat-al-al-ee'-ah; defamation:--backbiting, evil speaking.
psithurismos, psith-oo-ris-mos'; secret, vicious whispering
phluaros, floo'-ar-os; one who talks too much

Hebrew

halak, haw-lak'; to walk and carry; ie: a tale-bearer
rakiyl, raw-keel'; one who travels and carries tales, a talebearer, scandal-monger, a slanderer

A. A gossip is one who contributes to a quarrel by _____ to others.

Prov 26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. 21 As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.

Why might we tell others of our private disputes?

1. Sincere _____ -- We desire

2.

3.

B. When we repeat to others our complaints or concerns about another, we

*Prov 17:9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.
Prov 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.
nirgan, neer-gawn'; one who causes division; a slanderer:--talebearer, whisperer*

C. When we gladly _____ we _____ in someone else's business, and we draw ourselves into trouble.

*Prov 26:17 Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.
Leviticus 19:16 "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.*

D. Our goal: To maintain _____ among believers by guarding our _____ and our

Phil 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

The Christian and “Compassionate Gossip”

The action of gossip

To gossip is to speak in a way which raises questions or doubts about another or their character. Gossip is conversation behind someone's back, which puts them in bad light.

(Such discussion is only appropriate when engaged in by individuals involved in church discipline.)

The motivation for gossip

Compassion or sincere concern is no excuse for gossip.

No matter how pure or innocent the motive, raising questions about another still damages their reputation, ie:

"I'm concerned for `So and So' because ..."

"I'd like to pray for `So and So', because they've ..."

"What did you think about what So and So said? I had trouble with it myself."

"I am having a problem with `So and So,' because of such and such. Could you pray for me?"

"I heard such and such about `So and So.' Do you know if that's true?"

"Have you heard that `So and So' was being investigated for such and such? They need our prayer."

"But I know what I say to be TRUE -- so it's not gossip." (Where does the idea come from that words are only gossip if they are not true?)

Gossip destroys another's reputation, whether intentionally or accidentally.

The most famous excuse for gossip: *"I only mentioned it because I was concerned."*

- If personal concern excused gossip, 90% of all gossip could be justified.
- If the one speaking the gossip was genuinely concerned, they would have come to the one they gossiped about, and not raised doubts about them to someone else.

Even one who repeats hurtful gossip back to the slandered one, rather than confronting the slanderer, participates in gossip. The one originally speaking the gossip should be corrected and sent back to reconcile with the one they are gossiping about.

God's solution for those who have concerns for another is for them to go to the one they say they are concerned about. That way they don't accidentally gossip.

A gossip is one who tells *truth* to others -- not just lies.

A gossip is one who reveals matters which should have been kept private.

A gossip is one who isn't worthy of trust.

Prov 11:13 A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

halak, haw-lak'; to walk and carry; ie: a tale-bearer

A gossip is one who shares with others that which is entrusted to him in secret.

A gossip is one who says more than he ought, so should be avoided.

Prov 20:19 A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.

rakiyl, raw-keel'; one who travels and carries tales, a talebearer, scandal-monger, a slanderer

A gossip is one who stirs up dissension.

A gossip is one who speaks things which cause hurt feelings, thereby dividing friends.

*Prov 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a **gossip** separates close friends.*

nirgan, neer-gawn'; one who causes division; a slanderer:--talebearer, whisperer

*Prov 17:9 He who covers over an offense promotes love, but **whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.***

A gossip is one who contributes to a quarrel by speaking of it to others.

*Prov 26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without **gossip** a quarrel dies down.*

A gossip is one who damages his friends with his lips.

*Prov 11:9 **With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.***

A gossip is one whose words will not be without consequence -- on himself or others.

*Psalms 101:5 **Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence;** whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.*

*Leviticus 19:16 **"Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.***

One who speaks negatively of others is so full of himself that he speaks without restraint

Prov 10:18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool [keciyl].

keciyl, kes-eel'; to be fat; ie: to be bloated with self (A fool is one who lacks self-restraint.)

A gossip is anyone who sees a brother in sin, and does not follow Matthew 18, but tells others of his offense instead. As we are directed in Romans 16:17-18, such a divisive person should be avoided.

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. 16 But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Rom 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHAT IS SLANDER OR GOSSIP?

blasphemeo, blas-fay-meh'-o; to vilify; talk against; to speak irreverently: speak evil of; blaspheme

blasphemia krisis, kree'-sis; railing accusation or judgment

katalaleo, kat-al-al-eh'-o; to put down; to be a maligner, i.e. to slander:--speak against (evil of).

katalalia, kat-al-al-ee'-ah; defamation:--backbiting, evil speaking.

psithurismos, psith-oo-ris-mos'; secret, vicious whispering

psithuristes, psith-oo-ris-tace'; a secret, vicious whisperer

diabolos, dee-ab'-ol-os; a traducer, a slanderer, a false-accuser; literally - one who throws about

phluaros, floo'-ar-os; bubbling over with words; one who says too much; excessively talkative

loidoros, loy'-dor-os; one who spreads trouble with their mouth; abusive; a railer, a reviler

epereazo, ep-ay-reh-ad'-zo; to make inflammatory threats towards or statements about; to insult, falsely accuse

NEW TESTAMENT CONDEMNATIONS:

*Rom 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** [psithuristes]*

*2 Cor 12:20 For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, **gossip** [psithuristes], arrogance and disorder.*

*1 Tim 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.*

*3 John 1:10 So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, **gossiping** [phluaros] maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church.*

NEW TESTAMENT PROHIBITIONS:

*Eph 4:31 **Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander**, along with every form of malice.*

*Jam 4:11 Brothers, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.*

*Col 3:8 But now you must **rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander**, and filthy language from your lips.*

*Titus 3:2 to **slander no one**, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.*

*1 Pet 2:1 Therefore, **rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind**.*

THE CLEAREST NEW TESTAMENT PROHIBITION:

Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Our greatest motivation for not putting others in bad light is our obedience to the Law of Christ – we must love others as we want to be loved. If we do not want people to talk about us when we are not there, then we must treat them with the same consideration.

As children of God, we must be alert to one of Satan's chief goals – to bring division to God's family. Offenses will happen in all relationships, so we must guard ourselves against harboring resentment, and sitting in judgment of one another. We must be especially careful to not fall victim to the devil's scheme and speak negatively of one another -- Christ's prescription in Matthew 18 must be followed. Before mentioning our concern to anyone else, we must speak first to the one who concerns us. We must "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave" us (Eph 4:32).