

# **DA28. Not Being a Gossip or Talebearer.**

*We are not to be a gossip or talebearer.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

1 Timothy 3:11

*Similarly, the wives must be of good character, not gossips, but temperate, faithful in everything.*

1 Timothy 5:13

*Besides that, they learn to be idle, going around from house to house; and not only idle, but gossips and busybodies, saying things they shouldn't.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

Romans 1:29

2 Corinthians 12:20-21

James 4:11-12

3 John 1:10

## **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

AA22 Speaking Only That Which is Holy and Beneficial

DA03 Not Harming Our Neighbor

DA23 Not Slandering or Giving False Testimony Against Our Neighbor

## **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Leviticus 19:16 (NKJ)

*You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.*

Proverbs 11:13

*A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence.*

Proverbs 16:27-28

*A worthless person digs up evil [gossip]- it is like scorching fire on his lips. A deceitful person stirs up strife, and a slanderer can separate even close friends.*

Proverbs 20:19

*A gossip goes around revealing secrets, so don't get involved with a talkative person.*

Proverbs 26:20

*If there's no wood, the fire goes out; if nobody gossips, contention stops.*

Proverbs 26:22 (NKJ)

*The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.*

Jeremiah 6:28

*All of them are total rebels, spreading slanderous gossip; they are bronze and iron, [inferior metals,] all of them corrupt.*

Jeremiah 9:3(4)

*Everyone, be on guard against your neighbor, don't trust even a brother; for every brother is out to trick you, and every neighbor goes around gossiping.*

**Comment**

Gossip or talebearing is the unconstrained spreading of information (usually about a person) without concern for its intended secrecy, potential for harm, or assurance of truth. Gossip is prohibited by Scripture and rises to “slander” (also prohibited) if it is both false and derogatory (see *Mitzvah* #DA23).

**Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

N02 Wronging One Another through Our Speech

H04 Using Our Speech, Thoughts, Hearts and Actions for that which Is Good and Holy