



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of February 7 – 13, 2015  
Lesson: **Book of Proverbs, Lesson 7**

## Dealing With Fights: Proverbs 17

### Memory Text:

“Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.” Proverbs 17:1

### Sunday’s Lesson: Gossip

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Consider these words of Paul and note how many sins are associated with gossip: “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, **maliciousness**; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; **whisperers**, 1:30 **Backbiters**, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 1:31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Romans 1:29-32

Gossip is one of the most prevalent sins in the church. Consider these three types of gossip:

**Slander:** When we commit slander we are attacking someone’s character by spreading things about them that are not true, or you are not sure that they are true. The intent behind slander is to cause harm.

“For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and [that] I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, **whisperings**, swellings, tumults:”<sup>2</sup> Corinthians 12:20

**Talebearing:** The person who is a talebearer did not manufacture the lie, but has spread that lie amongst others. They are busybodies who love to hear the latest gossip and are eager to share it with others.

“And withal they learn to be idle, **wandering about from house to house**; and not only idle, but **tattlers** also and **busybodies**, speaking things which they ought not.” 1 Timothy 5:13

“A **talebearer** revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.” Proverbs 11:13

**Betrayal:** Betrayal of trust is a form of gossip in that you have shared with others information that was to be kept in confidentiality.

“He that goeth about as a talebearer **revealeth secrets**: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.” Proverbs 20:19



### What are some of the terrible effects of gossip?

“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where [there is] no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. 26:22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.” Proverbs 26:20-22

Gossip causes divisions.

Gossip makes fires in the church worse.

Gossip destroys reputations.

Gossip deceives the gossiper. When one gossips he gets a false sense of power. When people listen to his gossip it makes him feel important because people are listening to him. When there are those who gather around to hear the gossiper it makes him feel included. It also deceives him to look to the faults of others instead of considering his own faults and imperfections. Hence, we see ourselves as better than we really are.

### Monday's Lesson: How to deal with open sin

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In [1 Corinthians 5](#): 1-13, Paul deals with church discipline.

**Why, we might ask, does he deal so directly with open sin in the church?** First, open sin has a way of bringing division within the church. Second, consistent open sin will make the individuals involved useless in the work of God, and it will affect the image of the church in the community. Third, it can help from the development of further sin within the church.

**When is church discipline necessary in the church?** We generally view things like sexual immorality, those creating divisions and strife within the church, and the spreading of heresy as necessary to tackle head on.

**Why is church discipline necessary?** God has called us to holiness. He wants a purified church not having spot or wrinkle. See 1 Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44; Ephesians 5:25-27.

Discipline is an important form of love, when it is done with the desire to restore.

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” Hebrews 12:6-11



The purpose of church discipline is that of restoration.

### **What is the first level of church discipline?**

“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.” Matthehw 18:15-17

### **What should be our attitude toward church discipline?**

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” Galatians 6:1

### **Other texts dealing with church discipline:**

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 16:18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” Romans 16:17, 18

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” James 5:19, 20

## **Tuesday through Friday: Speaking the Truth in Love**

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Is honesty good? Of course, it is. But can we tell the truth in a way that is unkind? Absolutely!

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 1:6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.” 2 Peter 1:5-7. It is one thing to have “knowledge,” but it is another thing to have “brotherly kindness” and “charity.”

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:15, 16



## Sabbath School Lesson Notes – Feb 14, 2015

If books are judged by their cover and perfume is judged by its smell, should not our words be kind and courteous? We have been admonished to treat every precious soul as a flower. This is another way of saying, the content is the truth, but the packaging is love.

### Other Bible Texts

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29

“Let all your things be done with charity.” 1 Corinthians 16:14

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1 Timothy 4:12,

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