

HOW TO HANDLE GOSSIP

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2 CORINTHIANS 1:12-2:4



BIG IDEA

Handle gossip with grace and firmness.

OUTLINE

1. Consult with others to check your motives.
2. Sometimes action is necessary.
 - Calmly
 - Firmly
 - Stay with the facts.
 - Go directly to the person.
3. Sometimes the best decision is no decision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How often do you use social media? Why do you use social media?
2. How has social media exacerbated slander? Can you think of someone who has been ruined by untrue rumors?
3. Would you agree that gossip, criticism, and slander have become common in our culture? What can you do to guard yourself from these things?
4. Are you likely to confront someone who gossips or slanders you? Do you tend to let it go and avoid the conflict? Under what circumstances would you confront a gossip? What did Paul do in 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:4 in confronting gossip and slander?
5. Jesus said in Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." Do Christians take slander and gossip seriously? In what ways has slander become an acceptable sin?
6. Pastor Steve suggested four ways to confront slander: Calmly, Firmly, Stay on the facts, and Go directly to the person. Can you think of additional strategies to confront slander?