

Rockford Reformed Church
Proverbs 26:20-26 - “What Can I Say?”
4/29/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

How can we make progress toward curbing our appetite for dirt and instead build others up?

1. What is gossip/slander?

a. What do you learn about the scope and seriousness of how we use our tongue when you consider Lev. 19:16, Prov. 11:13, 2 Cor. 12:20, and Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 112, which says, “*God’s will is that I never give false testimony against anyone, twist one’s words, not gossip or slander, nor join anyone condemning anyone without a hearing or a just cause.*” How do these sins most often surface for you?

2. How does it work?

a. What makes gossip so dangerous? (see Prov. 16:28)

b. What is the key biblical command for when we have a problem or criticism with someone (Mt. 18:15)? Recall a time when you did this well and a time when you did not.

3. Why do we do it? Three reasons:

a. You have a wicked, _____ . (See Jer. 17:9, Mt. 15:19, Ps. 52:4)

b. You have are busy with the _____ . (See 1 Tim. 5:13)

c. _____. (See Titus 3:1-2, Luke 18:9-14)

How have you seen any of these reasons working in your own heart and life? Can you see how you have attempted to elevate yourself by standing on the “manure” of others?

4. How do we stop?

a. What do you have to believe and deeply absorb about yourself and about Jesus everyday? When you gossip, what are you believing instead? Read Mt. 18:21-35. If Christ doesn’t remember your sins, how does that impact what you are to do with the sins of others?

Four practical instructions for killing gossip:

1. **Tongue exercise:** For one week, do not gossip, complain or criticize.
2. **Separate yourself, refuse to listen** (Pr. 20:19).
3. **Rebuke in love** (Ps. 50:19-21).
4. **T.H.I.N.K.**

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