



Talebearer

The Word of God, especially in the book of Proverbs, speaks volumes about and against a “talebearer”. This makes me believe that it is a crucial subject for it to be repeated that much.

Who is a talebearer? A talebearer is one who goes about revealing secrets (Proverbs 11:13; 20:19) that he or she should not be doing. A talebearer reveals information not meant to bring about a solution to a problem but to slander or defame another without wanting their name to be associated with it. He is sharing information not to be a solution. One who tells or shares information to someone who cannot do anything about it to bring about a solution or resolve the problem or refuse to put their name to the information they are sharing. One of the goal of a talebearer is to slander one another.

On the other hand, a witness would be one who heard something or saw something and is willing to put their name to it with an intent to bring about a solution to the issue rather than slander and defame another. Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

We must understand two things about revealing secrets. There is a place to be quiet and a place to share.

- a) Telling someone information and details about a subject with the intent to cause slander, division, and discord is wrong, and this is what a talebearer does. Frequently, we are trusted with sensitive and personal information, and we turn around and tell another friend saying, “this is between you and me.” And that person later tells another and says the same thing, and eventually what was meant to be personal secret turns out to be revealed to all. People don’t have to know everything about everything all the time. There is a place for confidentiality if that information is not ungodly, criminal, and breaking the law. **Revealing secrets has and can destroy relationships we have taken almost a lifetime to build.**
- b) This does not mean that we should never share any information about anything at all but fully conceal it. If information is shared with the right motive is to bring about correction, discipline, direction, and restoration—Galatians 6:1, following the procedure mentioned in Matthew 18, then this not talebearing.

- i) For instance, in 1 Samuel 24:9, Jonathan revealed the secrets of the Father to protect and preserve his life.

- A. Proverbs 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.
 - a) A talebearer reveals secrets. Here is a simple definition of who a talebearer is. He reveals a matter that ought to be concealed.

 - b) There is nothing wrong with concealing if it is to seek love, healing, and restoration.

- B. Proverbs 16:28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.
 - a) A froward man is a perverse person who uses their mouth to slander, gossip, and talebear hence sowing strife.

 - b) The Hebrew word "NEER-GAWN" from which both "talebearer and "whisperer was translated means "Slanderer" hence a talebearer is also the whisperer who specializes in slander, strife, destroying of friendships.

 - c) This verse compares a froward man with a whisperer who I believe is a talebearer.

 - d) If we put this verse with Proverbs 17:9 and Proverbs 26:20-22, we see that a talebearer is responsible for strife and division—separating chief/very friends.

 - c) There is nothing wrong with concealing if it is to seek love, healing, and restoration.

- C. Proverbs 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.
 - a) A talebearer or whisperer reveals secrets and is not seeking love.

- i) There is a place for confidentiality and keeping secrets. When this is done to cover a transgression, it displays love.
- b) Of course, this is not promoting covering up sin, but having the wisdom of what to share and what not to being motivated by love.
- c) When we repeat or rehearse certain information, chances are that it will cause division, break, and separate friends.

D. Proverbs 18:8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Proverbs 26:22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverbs 26:22 The words of a whisperer or slanderer are like dainty morsels or words of sport [to some, but to others are like deadly wounds]; and they go down into the innermost parts of the body [or of the victim's nature]. AMP Version

- a) In many cases, the words of a talebearer are so bad because they are designed to divide and tear apart. They are slanderous by nature.
- b) Words are powerful—good or bad. They can make damage nothing else. They go deep down and cause wounds which are deadly and could take longer to heal. They go deeper than we ever realize—deep to the uttermost parts of the belly. We need to be cautious about how we talk and what we talk about.

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

- a) We need to stay clear of talebearers. They reveal secrets and flatter with their lips. They are up to no good.

- F. Proverbs 26:20-22 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
- a) As Proverbs 18:8 said, words go deeper than we ever realize. They are as wounds. Slander and gossip inflict wounds on others. They go deeper than we think. Words can get to where a spear wouldn't.
 - b) No wood = No fire. No talebearer = end of strife. So, a talebearer is the reason strife is present. If you throw out the talebearer, the strife will end. The fuel to strife is the talebearer, just as wood is to fire. Talebearer is referring to gossip and slander.
 - c) It takes coals to get burning coals, and it takes wood to get fire but also it takes a contentious man (Proud man; Proverbs 13:10) to start strife. If you can throw out the scorner or the contentious man, strife will go out with him. It will cease.
 - d) Two things are at the foundation of strife: Pride and talebearer—slanderer.