

Gossip!

by Melanie Imel

Who am I?

I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives.

I am cunning, malicious and gather strength with age.

The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

I flourish at every level of society.

My victims are helpless.

They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody's friend.

Who am I? My name is GOSSIP!

I have been praying for Tiger Woods and his family this week; No I don't personally know them, but with all the gossip swirling around, they need prayer. Isn't it amazing how something can grow and grow until you don't know what is true? Now, we can expect this type of behavior in the world, but in the church? We should hold ourselves to a higher standard!

I have been noticing that gossip among Christians has increased. Maybe because we are following the example of the world with all the gossip magazines available for our enjoyment.

Gossip and slander color people's perceptions of an individual unfairly and unjustly. One thing about gossip, is that the person being torn down is usually unaware of what is being said until after the fact. Talebearers usually avoid speaking directly to the one they are gossiping about.

I have raised the standard in my life and I encourage you to do the same. To the best of our ability, we must always evaluate people based on first-hand experience WITH THEM, not on what someone else tells you or me about them - for the obvious reason that second-hand information can be very misleading and not the truth.

Remember, before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary??

If not, do not repeat it,

KEEP QUIET!