> Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.
> *— 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: gossip, greed, idols, Kingdom, Salvation, sin

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 verses from a letter written by *the Apostle Paul* to the church in Corinth. In this letter, Paul covers a variety of topics and instructs the believers on how to live according to the principles of the gospel. In the verses in question, Paul warns the Corinthians of the consequences of a life filled with sin.

Sins mentioned

In this passage, Paul mentions ten specific sins that can prevent a person from inheriting *the Kingdom of God*.

1. *Fornicators*, which are those who engage in sexual relations outside of marriage.
2. *Idolaters*, which are those who worship gods other than the God of the Bible.
3. *Adulterers*, which are those who cheat on their partners.
4. *Effeminate*, which are those men who adopt behavior or attitudes considered feminine.
5. *Homosexuals*, which are those who engage in sexual relations with members of the same sex.
6. *Thieves*, those who take possession of what does not belong to them.
7. *Covetous people (misers)*, who love money excessively and will do anything to get it.
8. *Drunken people*, who abuse alcohol and lose control of their actions.
9. *Gossips*, those who speak ill of others without any basis.
10. *Predators (cheaters)*, those who deceive others for personal gain.

It is important to clarify, however, that this passage is not limited to the people mentioned in the list. We are all sinners, and there are areas in our lives where we can make mistakes. The purpose of this passage is not to condemn or single out certain groups of people, but rather to show the importance of

living a righteous life and keeping God’s commandments. We must remember that the purpose of this passage is not to fan the flames of hatred or discrimination against certain groups of people.

Divine judgment

These verses remind us that as humans, we are responsible for our actions and must be accountable to God. Divine judgment is a reality, and as Christians, we must always be prepared for it. It is important to understand that our earthly life is temporary and that what we do in it has eternal consequences.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
> — *Ephesians 4:29*

Book: New Testament / Ephesians
Topics: gossip, goodness, speaking

Interpretation:
In *Ephesians 4:29, the Apostle Paul* reminds us of the importance of controlling our words and speaking only those that build up and bring grace to others. This verse is a call to be careful about what we say and how we say it, because our words have great power.

Why is it important to be careful about our words?

Our words can build up or destroy, bless or curse, heal or hurt. That is why it is so important to pay attention to what we say and how we say it. An unfortunate comment can cause great harm to someone, even if that was not our intention.

Moreover, our words also reveal a lot about our character. If we are people who speak compassionately and constructively, we demonstrate an attitude of love and service to others. On the other hand, if our manner of speech is negative or hurtful, it reflects a heart full of resentment and bitterness.

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> Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
> — *Matthew 5:11*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: gossip, blessing, evil, lying, persecution

Interpretation:
One of the most famous passages from the Sermon on the Mount is *Matthew 5:11*, where *Jesus* gives the famous Beatitudes. In this verse, we find one of these “beatitudes,” although it is not usually as popular or remembered as the others. At first glance, this statement may seem a little strange. How can it be a blessing to be persecuted or reviled?

Persecuted for Jesus’ sake

The key to this verse is the phrase *“for my sake.”* Jesus is not talking about any kind of persecution or abuse; He is talking specifically about the persecution that comes as a result of following Him. That is, if we are persecuted or reviled for *our faith in Jesus*, then we can consider ourselves *“blessed.”* This may seem confusing or even scary, but there is a reason Jesus encourages us to view this situation as a blessing.

The value of persecution

Jesus tells us that we will be blessed when we are persecuted and reviled for His sake, but why is that a good thing? The reality is that persecution, although painful and difficult, has tremendous value in our lives as followers of Jesus.

When we are persecuted for our faith, it causes us to depend on God even more deeply and trust Him. It gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our loyalty to Jesus, even in difficult circumstances.

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> Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips and spreads slander is a fool.
> — *Proverbs 10:18*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, lying, speaking

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is a source of wisdom for anyone seeking to know and understand God. In chapter 10, the author emphasizes the importance of honesty and truthfulness and points out the negative consequences of slander and lies.

A common, yet dangerous sin

Lying is one of the most common sins in our daily lives. Whether it is for convenience, to avoid responsibility, or to put ourselves in a better light, lying is a constant temptation. Slander is a more subtle form of lying, in which false or harmful information is spread about another person.

However, *Proverbs 10:18* reminds us that these habits can have serious consequences. Those who resort to lies and slander to hide their hatred or to harm others are considered fools in the eyes of God.

Tips on living honestly

How can we avoid the temptation to lie and slander in our daily lives? Proverbs gives us valuable advice:

- Speak honestly and sincerely.
- Avoid spreading rumors or unverified information.
- Learn to listen to others before judging.
- Think of others before speaking.

By following these principles, we can avoid hurting others and build healthier, longer-lasting relationships.

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> A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.
> — *Proverbs 11:13*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, lying, reliability, speaking

Interpretation:
First, it is important to understand what is meant by the word *“gossip”*. Gossip is unverified information that is passed on to others with the intent to harm someone. Gossip is often biased or incomplete and is used to condemn someone without knowing all the facts. The gossip seeks to create a negative opinion of the person being gossiped about.

God’s Word teaches us to be faithful and trustworthy, to protect the secrets of others, and to avoid gossip. By following *Proverbs 11:13*, we can become wiser, more loving, and caring people.

Let us always remember that our words and actions can have a huge impact on those around us. Therefore, we must ensure that we speak the truth with love and wisdom.

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> With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape.
> — *Proverbs 11:9*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, righteousness, speaking, wisdom

Interpretation:
Proverbs 11:9 talks about hypocrisy and wisdom, which we see in our words and actions. A hypocrite in this context is someone who pretends to be something he is not when communicating with others, who speaks falsely and maliciously, while the righteous, who act honestly, do not worry about the consequences of their words.

Hypocrisy: a sin that hurts others

When a hypocrite speaks, his goal is not to express a true opinion or convey useful information, but to manipulate others for personal gain. *Proverbs 11:9* tells us that such behavior can be harmful to those to whom the hypocrite's words are addressed. When a person communicates in this way, it damages his reputation, self-esteem, and relationships with others.

Wisdom: an antidote to hypocrisy

Wisdom, on the other hand, offers us an alternative: to act and speak honestly, clearly, and sincerely. By being aware of our role in the lives of others, we can use it to choose our words wisely and express ourselves truthfully and helpfully. This allows us to comfort, encourage, and support others, thereby enriching our relationships and making a positive contribution to their lives.

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> The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.
> — *Proverbs 15:4*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, lying, speaking, Spirit

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs, specifically chapter 15, verse 4, talks about the importance of using the tongue correctly. This verse clearly distinguishes between two ways of using the tongue and how each affects our lives and the lives of those around us.

A gentle tongue

The first part of the verse says that "a gentle tongue is a tree of life." What does this phrase mean? According to the Bible, a "gentle tongue" is a symbol of eternal life and divine blessing. So comparing a gentle tongue to this tree indicates that using our words correctly can bring life and blessing to both ourselves and those around us.

A gentle tongue is a tongue that speaks gently, respectfully, and lovingly. When we speak this way, we can build trust, promote understanding, and create an atmosphere of harmony. We can also encourage and support those who are going through difficult times.

A perverted tongue

The second part of the verse says that “an unbridled tongue is a broken spirit.” This phrase makes us think about the destructive power of unkind words and the harm they can cause.

When we use words to hurt, insult, or humiliate someone, we create deep wounds in the hearts of others. Hurtful words can destroy relationships, affect self-esteem, and make others feel bad about themselves.

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> A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.
> — *Proverbs 16:28*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, friendship, honesty, lying

Interpretation:
The book of Proverbs is one of the most important books in the Bible because it is a collection of wisdom on how to live righteously and godly. In this book, we find many verses that tell us about the importance of honesty and healthy relationships with others. One such verse is *Proverbs 16:28*, which talks about gossip and strife.

An evil man sows discord

Proverbs 16:28 begins with the words, “A perverse person stirs up conflict.” Here we are clearly shown that a perverse person sows discord in his surroundings. The word “perverse” in this context refers to someone who acts wickedly and deceitfully, without regard for the pain and suffering it may cause to others.

It is important to think about how our actions may negatively affect others, especially our loved ones. A person who sows discord not only causes pain and suffering to others, but also harms himself.

Gossip Separates the Best of Friends

The second part of *Proverbs 16:28* says, “gossip separates close friends.” This verse speaks of the dangers of gossip, which can negatively affect our interpersonal relationships and cause serious emotional damage. Gossip is a way of talking badly about others behind their back. When we speak badly of someone, we violate their privacy and trust, which can cause emotional and psychological

harm.

Gossip can separate even the best of friends, especially when it involves unfounded rumors or false information. It can damage people's reputations, which can have serious and long-lasting consequences.

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> The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.
> — *Proverbs 18:8*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: gossip, speaking

Interpretation:
Proverbs 18:8 talks about gossip and its ability to harm those it is spoken about. This verse describes a gossip as someone who speaks soft words that go deep into the soul, indicating that their words can be very destructive and have a profound effect on those they are speaking about.

What is gossip according to the Bible?

Gossip is a very common, yet often condemned practice in both the church and the secular world. It involves a person speaking evil of another in their absence, often with the intent to cause harm. As Christians, we must remember that gossip is a form of sin that often manifests itself in a hidden way.

In the Bible, gossip is linked to the word "murmuring," which is also mentioned in many other Bible passages. Instead of gossiping or complaining, the Bible calls us to take our problems and conflicts directly to the person with whom we are communicating and try to resolve them through loving and constructive dialogue.

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> The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others.
>
> — *Psalm 15:2-3*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: gossip, Blameless, lying, truth

Interpretation:
The Book of Psalms, written by several authors, is a collection of hymns and verses that address human experiences and emotions from a spiritual perspective. Psalm 15 offers a list of virtues to be cultivated by those seeking to find God's presence in their lives.

Honest and just conduct

Verses 2-3 begin with the words, *"The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous."* Integrity implies honesty and righteousness in all our actions and decisions, while righteousness is the correct and just application of established rules and laws. The psalm calls us to be people who not only care about following rules but also always act righteously and justly.

Such honest and just conduct is the foundation of drawing closer to God and living according to His will. We must be honest and upright in all areas of our lives, both personal and professional. Honesty and fairness should always be present in our actions.

Sincerity of heart

The next aspect emphasized in the verses is sincerity of heart. It says, *"who speaks the truth from their heart."* Truth is one of the most important virtues in the life of a Christian. We must always speak sincerely, without deception or lying.

However, sincerity of heart implies something deeper than simply avoiding lying. It involves aligning our thoughts and emotions with our actions. We must strive to be consistent in our thoughts, feelings, and words, always remaining true to our values ??and principles.

Speaking the truth from the heart

Finally, *Psalm 15:2-3* emphasizes the importance of speaking the truth from the heart. This means we must be honest not only with others but also with ourselves. We must be able to acknowledge and accept our weaknesses and mistakes without succumbing to complacency or self-justification.

Speaking the truth from the heart is a deep and honest process of self-reflection that helps us know ourselves and always remain sincere. We must pursue the truth and have the courage to accept it, even if it is unpleasant or painful.

Why is it important to be careful with words?

For many people, words can be a powerful tool of inspiration, motivation, teaching, and comfort. But at the same time, they can be a source of violence, destruction, and pain. For this reason, the tongue is considered one of the most dangerous and difficult organs to control.

Psalm 15:2-3 recognizes this danger and calls for prudence and compassion in our interactions with others. Instead of seeking to harm, slander, or humiliate others, we are called to be sensitive, compassionate, and kind in our words and actions.

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> Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
> *— Psalm 34:13*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: gossip, evil, lying, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
Psalm 34:13 calls for purity of speech—a recurring theme in the Bible, highlighting the importance of controlling our words and ensuring that what we say is always truthful, righteous, and edifying.

Why is it important to care for the tongue?

The tongue is a powerful tool that can be used for both good and evil. With our words, we can bless, comfort, encourage, and teach others, but we can also hurt, slander, and defame. *Proverbs 18:21* reminds us that "the tongue has the power of life and death," and *James 3:5-6* compares the tongue to a fire capable of kindling a raging flame.

Furthermore, our words reveal what is in our hearts. *Jesus* said in *Matthew 12:34*, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Therefore, if we want to live a righteous life that is pleasing to God, we need to control our words and always speak to the glory of God.

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