Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1462: Are Gossip and Slander Part of My Social Connections? **See:** CQRewind SHOW NOTES
https://christianquestions.com/character/1462-gossip-and-slander/

1. The definition and nature of gossip and slander: (Ephesians 4:31, James 3:1-2)
   a. How does the Bible describe gossip and slander?
   b. In what ways can gossip occur even when we do not intend to hurt someone?
   c. Why must we be careful about what we say even if our information is correct?
   d. How has technology expanded the opportunities for gossip and slander?

2. What our speech reveals about our spiritual maturity: (James 3:1-2, 1 Timothy 1:13)
   a. What responsibilities do Christian teachers carry in terms of what they say?
   b. How does the control we exert over our words reveal our level of spiritual maturity?

3. Power of the tongue: (James 3:3-6, Matthew 15:11)
   a. How can an insignificant comment develop into damage to a person's reputation?
   b. In what ways does gossip feed our egos?

4. Motives behind gossip and slander: (James 3:14-18, Acts 6:10-11, James 4:11)
   a. How can our motives cause us to minimize another person or magnify their mistakes?
   b. What changes do I need to make in my heart so that my words reflect the wisdom from above rather than my own selfish ambition?
   c. How can gossip disguise itself as concern, helpfulness or a desire to "keep others informed"?
   d. Why can good intentions still lead to harmful gossip?

5. Responsibility of the listener: (James 3:8-10, Proverbs 18:8, 17:4)
   a. Why is the person listening just as important as the person initiating the conversation?
   b. How can I redirect a conversation without being argumentative or unkind?

6. Blessing God: (James 3:8-10, Genesis 9:6)
   a. Why is gossip and slander particularly contradictory for someone who claims to follow Christ?
   b. How should the fact that all people bear God's image inform the way we speak about them?

7. Consequences of allowing gossip to grow: (James 3:6, 2 Corinthians 12:20, Proverbs 11:9)
   a. How can gossip become the starting point for a much larger pattern of spiritual deterioration?
   b. How can our words sow seeds of discord that damage relationships and unity in our fellowship?

8. Responding properly: (James 3:14-18, 1 Peter 2:12, 3:16-17, Ephesians 4:30-32, Philippians 4:8)
   a. Why is sharing, forwarding, reposting or liking questionable content online a modern form of participating in gossip?
   b. What does it mean to sow seeds of righteousness in peace versus seeds of discord? How can we make sure we are intentionally planting seeds of peace through our words and actions?
   c. When we are falsely slandered, how can we demonstrate Christian character?