

**ZIP IT!**  
Speak No Evil!





**11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbour?**

## 1 Peter 5


8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith ...



## JAMES 3

5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.



The tongue is a fire.

James 3:6

- **Woe to Me!**



"I am ruined! For I am a man  
of unclean lips, and I live  
among a people of unclean  
lips ... *(Isaiah 6:5)*

**Judging Others**



# DO NOT SLANDER!

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. *(James 4)*



# SLANDER

A verdict of guilty pronounced in the absence of the accused, with closed doors, without defence or appeal, by an interested and prejudiced judge.

*Roux)*

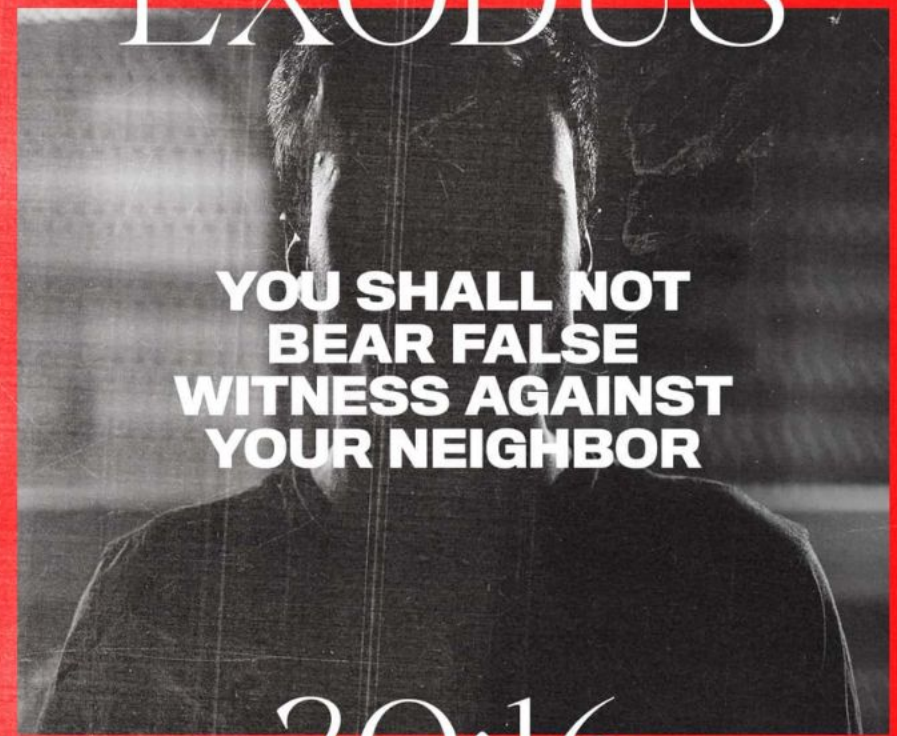




5 Whoever slanders their  
neighbour in secret, Him I  
will put to silence;

Psalm 101

# EXODUS



**YOU SHALL NOT  
BEAR FALSE  
WITNESS AGAINST  
YOUR NEIGHBOR**

20:16





## Matt Mitchell

All too often, however, you and I do want to gossip. Gossiping can be fun and addictive and provide a short burst of guilty pleasure. The book of Proverbs likens the words of a gossip to “delicious morsels,” a tasty treat that promises delight to those who indulge (Proverbs 18:8, 26:22). We get bored and want to entertain ourselves by snacking on the shameful stories of other people’s lives. Or we get proud that we know something that someone else doesn’t and want to show off our inside scoop. Or we get mad and crave the satisfaction of character assassination from afar, sniping at our enemies when they don’t even know they’re in danger. Gossip can be hard to resist.



28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

*(Proverbs 16)*

20 For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarrelling ceases.

*(Proverbs 26)*

Evil gossip kills three: the one who says it, the one who listens, and the subject of the gossip.

*(Talmud)*



# DO NOT SLANDER!

- Confess
- Repent
- Correct



# Do Not Entertain Slander Or Gossip

4 A wicked person listens  
to deceitful lips; a liar pays  
attention to a destructive  
tongue. (Proverbs 17)



# DO NOT JUDGE!



Do Not Slander!

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Do not  
Judge?

'Judge not, lest you be judged.'" *(Matthew 7:1)*

#### MATTHEW 7:15

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

#### ROMANS 16:17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

#### 2 TIMOTHY 4

14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. 15 You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message.

# A Judgmental Attitude



11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."



## When You Judge ...

11 ... Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

(James 4)

- **Speak against the law**
- **Judge the law**
- **Make yourself judge**



# Unappointed Judge

But you –  
who are you to judge  
your neighbour?



“

**There is  
only one  
Lawgiver  
and Judge,  
the One who  
is able to  
save and to  
destroy**

**JAMES 4:12**




# Judge Your Own Conduct

"...first take the plank  
out of your own eye, and  
then you will see clearly  
to remove the speck from  
your brother's eye."

Matthew 7:5






If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right.

~ James 2:8 NIV

When You Judge  
The Law ...  
You Are Not  
Keeping It!



Once there was a man whom the entire village knew to be a gossip.

He could not wait to share the juiciest piece of gossip with whoever would listen. It did not matter to him if the stories he spread were true, or not—he never stopped to ask.

One day, after hearing the rabbi speak about the harm gossip causes, this man went to the rabbi and said, "Rabbi, I am truly sorry for all the pain I have caused with my loose lips. I repent and will gossip no more. Can I be forgiven?"



## FEATHERS ON THE WIND

"Yes," replied the rabbi, "but here is what you must do. Go home. Find a feather pillow. Open the pillow and release the feathers on the wind. Then, come back to me."

The man thought this a strange request, but he did as he was told. When he came back, the rabbi said, "Now, go gather all the feathers released from the pillow."



## FEATHERS ON THE WIND


"But that is impossible! They have flown all over the place. I do not even know where most of them have travelled!"

"So it is with words: you do know where your gossip and rumours have travelled. Once words have been uttered, they cannot be taken back."

The man understood. From that day on, he was careful and thoughtful when speaking of others, and spoke with integrity.



## FEATHERS ON THE WIND



**ZIP IT!**  
Speak No Evil!

**SLANDER**

**GOSSIP**

**JUDGE**

