There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Feet that are quick to rush into evil (NIV)

Feet that be swift in running to mischief (KJV)

Feet that make haste to run to evil (ESV)

Feet that run rapidly to evil (NASB)

Feet that race down a wicked track
(The Message Bible)

It Starts with Feet

Feet are all about motion and being on the go

Metaphorically Solomon is talking about people that are busy with action

We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

2 Thessalonians 3:11

Busybody

A person who pries into or meddles in the affairs of others.

Nosey: showing too much curiosity about other people's affairs.

Disruptive

Although they always seem busy really, they are idle when it comes to doing God's work

Acting with Speed

We get words like; Quick, Rush, Swift, Haste, Rapidly and Race

When you do things with great speed most of the time you do so without giving great thought

These people's constant motion means they care little about the consequences of their action

There are Consequences!

Bad Results

From the Proverb's translation we get evil, wicked and mischief

Again, Paul called them disruptive

The reality of this activity creates chaos and confusion

The Gossip Girls

Gossip in the Bible

6 of them are in Proverbs

2 by the Apostle Paul

The word is not actually used at all in the KJV

No Big Deal!

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 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. 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.

James 3:3-6

Gossip Defined

The action: a casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that should not be discussed

The Individual: a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts about others

People and Sin

Romans 1:28-32

Everybody Does It!

But Paul puts them right in the middle of what most of us would identify as the worst kind of sin.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:21

It is not a cute subject that we should give
a wave and a pass it is a dangerous community killer that we best deal with as swiftly as tongues wag.

Gossip and the Community

Significant Impacts

Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 11:12-13

Significant Impact

For the gossipers it makes you look like you lack sense, are a betrayer and are not to be trusted.

For the community it robs them of the ability to share

If you feel you need to share to get help you **ALWAYS** ask their permission, if you do not, it is gossip I don't care how good your intensions were.

Gossip and the Community

Significant Impacts

A scoundrel plots evil, and on their lips, it is like a scorching fire. A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.

Proverbs 16:27-28

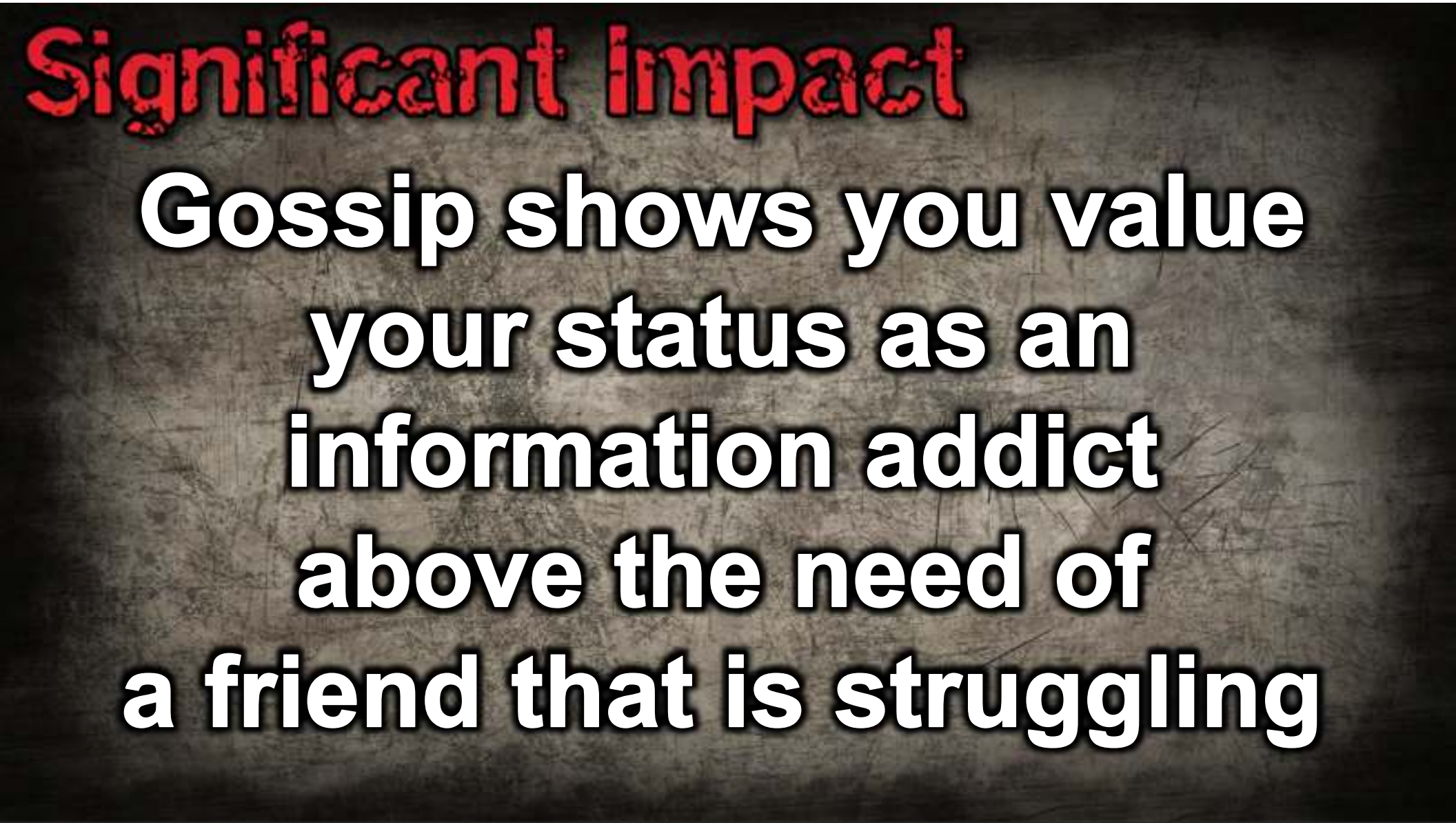
Significant Impact

For the gossiper you are a scoundrel and perverse. you are creating conflict

For the community, the key word is separation

How many people have been sacrificed on the need-to-know desire to tell altar?

Friendships are based on trust, when trust is gone then the friendship goes away


Significant Impact
Gossip shows you value
your status as an
information addict
above the need of
a friend that is struggling

Gossip and the Community

Significant Impacts

The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

Selfishness

Proverbs 18:7-8

For the gossiper you look like a fool, your lips are becoming a snare to people living for Christ

For the community it hurts to the inmost parts

Putting an End to Gossip

Don't give them an ear

A gossip betrays a confidence; so, avoid anyone who talks too much.

Proverbs 20:19

Don't add fuel to the fire

Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife. The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts.

Not Interested

Proverbs 26:20-22

Gossip
We must choose to be wise with our words and not vicious with our voice
2 Corinthians 12:20