

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a bundle of thin, light-colored wooden sticks. The sticks are being held over a small fire that is burning in a metal fire pit. The fire is bright orange and yellow. The person is wearing a dark blue jacket and dark pants. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some dry leaves and twigs on the ground.

FOR LACK OF WOOD

Proverbs 26:20



IDENTIFYING GOSSIP

- Gossip is something spread by a gossip (Rom. 1:29; 1 Tim. 3:11; 5:13; 2 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 2:3).
- It is bad news (Prov. 10:18; Psa. 41:5-8).
- It is secret news (Prov. 11:13; 20:19; 16:28).
- It is a bad heart (Prov. 18:8; 26:22; Matt. 12:34).



AVOIDING PARTICIPATION

- Check your heart.
 - Do you love to be “in the know” (1 Cor 8:1)?
 - Do you view everyone through a negative lens (Deut. 1:27; Isa. 29:24)?
 - Do you have bitterness (2 Sam. 15:2-6)?
 - Are you just trying to fit in (Prov. 29:25)?
 - Are you bored (1 Tim. 5:13; Prov. 26:17)?



AVOIDING PARTICIPATION

- Check your heart.
- Be slow to make judgments (Jas. 4:11-12; Prov. 14:15; 18:17).
- Transform your speech (Eph. 4:29).
- Don't be an eager listener (Prov. 17:9; 26:20).



WHEN YOU ARE THE SUBJECT

- Have concern about your reputation (Prov. 22:1).
- But not too much (1 Cor. 4:3-4).
- Overlook what you can (Prov. 19:11).
- Confront what you can't (Matt. 18:15).
- Know and be known by God (Psa. 140).