

DNA QUESTIONS – TUESDAY 31st January 2012

After last Sunday evening's sermon on **Proverbs 17: 9-10** on the subject of gossip there have been a lot of questions flying around - which is great! The Scriptures are supposed to make us question and change where necessary. So just a quick recap on the sermon first; you should never speak about anyone in a fashion that will damage their reputation even if you've seen them doing something they shouldn't. If so, then pray. Then, if necessary, you work through Jesus' instructions in **Matthew 18: 15-20**.

1. How hard do you find it to stop gossiping, or put differently, how easy do you find it to gossip? (Gossip being, 'one who harmfully whispers against another'). So the point isn't whether it's true or not, it's whether it is harmful to that other person. It's personal!
2. Why is the loving thing to cover an offence, **Proverbs 17: 9**? Since God is love, and this action is spoken of as seeking love, how does this action display behaviour like that of God's? Or does it?
3. **Read Proverbs 17: 10**. This verse clearly shows that we are not just to ignore our fellow believers' sins but to confront them. So verse 9 isn't about cover ups going on all over the place, rather it's warning against gossiping. We rebuke the person where rebuke is necessary. Does Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 18: 15-20** make it clear how this is to happen? Discuss His teaching.
4. Peter asked a really interesting question during the sermon that I didn't really give an appropriate answer to, a public apology Peter. Peter asked 'But what about a vulnerable person?' It is a great question. Supposing the sin committed was by an adult against a child. Would it be appropriate to skip the first part of confronting the person directly and actually bringing others into the fray as it were? If so, can you think of any verses to back this up?
5. The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland was recently in the spotlight since accusations of child molestation were made which came to the Church, and the Church didn't really do anything. Is there a time when it's appropriate to go to the police rather than the Church? (**Read Romans 13: 1-5**)