

# LifeCode

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## KEEP IT CONFIDENTIAL

*A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter. —PROVERBS 11:13 NKJV*

*A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence. —PROVERBS 11:13 NLT*

### Consider the Importance of Keeping Confidences

*A gossip tells secrets, so don't hang around with someone who talks too much. —PROVERBS 20:19 NLT*

Successful human relationships must be based on two fundamental elements: **truth** and **trust**. Without these two elements, you cannot sustain relationships. This is also true of your relationship with God.

*The gossip of bad people gets them in trouble; the conversation of good people keeps them out of it. —PROVERBS 12:13 MSG*

*A gadabout gossip can't be trusted with a secret, but someone of integrity won't violate a confidence. —PROVERBS 11:13 MSG*

### Calculate the Impact of Breaking Confidences

#### • Sows Strife

The impact of gossipers at work is destructive; it divides people, disrupts productivity and demoralizes team spirit.

*A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends. —PROVERBS 20:17 NKJV*

*The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body. He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer. —PROVERBS 18:8-9 NKJV*

*When a leader listens to malicious gossip, all the workers get infected with evil. —PROVERBS 29:12 MSG*

#### • Fuels Anger

When people are divisive in their speech, you can count on a change in "atmospheric conditions."

*As surely as a wind from the north brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger! —PROVERBS 25:23 NLT*

*When you run out of wood, the fire goes out; when the gossip ends, the quarrel dies down. —PROVERBS 26:20 MSG*

#### • Defaces Character

Ultimately, divisive talk has the same effect as deception; it distorts and defaces the truth.

*Evil people relish malicious conversation; the ears of liars itch for dirty gossip. —PROVERBS 17:4 MSG*

### Concentrate on Insights for Guarding Confidences

#### M-O-U-T-H:

##### Motivation?

What is your purpose in speaking about another person?

*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil. —PROVERBS 15:28 NKJV*

##### Offense?

Who will you injure and what are the consequences of careless and casual speech?

*Rash language cuts and maims, but there is healing in the words of the wise. —PROVERBS 12:18 MSG*

##### Urgency?

Is there something you know that calls for urgent exposure, response, etc.?

*The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. —PROVERBS 15:2 NKJV*

##### Tact?

Can you say what needs to be said without injuring or betraying another?

*The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. —PROVERBS 10:11 NKJV*

##### Hearing?

Do you guard what you hear? Have you become a depository for the malicious talk and gossip of others?

*Evil people relish malicious conversation, the ears of liars itch for dirty gossip. —PROVERBS 17:4 MSG*

*Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you really want junk like that in your belly? —PROVERBS 18:8 MSG*



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