Lesson 2 – the next two symptoms of Diotrephes Disease (DD)

3. **He is gossiping maliciously** (v. 10). How does this characteristics usually show itself? (We talk about someone in the youth group, “have you heard what Joe did, did you hear about Susie.”)

How would you define gossip?

Gossip Game  
  
The Scriptures have a great deal to say about the consequences of idle gossip or murdering with the tongue. The following game is useful as a way of pointing out the futility of spreading rumors.  
  
Choose three young people to leave the room while a fourth person copies (as best she can) on poster board a picture that she is shown.  
  
One of the three persons outside comes in and draws the same drawing only using the first person's drawing as his guide, rather than the original.  
  
The next person comes in and draws her drawing from the second person's, and likewise with the last person.  
  
The last person's drawing is then compared with the original and, of course, there will hardly be any resemblance to the original at all, since each of the young people copied each other, and everyone changes their drawing a little, usually omitting or adding important things.

What does God have to say about gossip? (Eph. 4:25, 29)

Eph 4:25 What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

Eph 4:29 Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

How can we stop gossip?

How do we practice useful, helpful, encouraging speech?

4. **He refuses to welcome the brothers** (v. 10). How does this characteristics usually show itself? (We ignore new people in our lives, “I don’t know her so I’m not going to say hi.” “Are you kidding he looks strange I think he is a dweb”)

How did Jesus deal with strangers and outcasts? (Luke 5:29-39)

Luk 5:29 Levi gave a large dinner at his home for Jesus. Everybody was there, tax men and other disreputable characters as guests at the dinner.

Luk 5:30 The Pharisees and their religion scholars came to his disciples greatly offended. "What is he doing eating and drinking with crooks and 'sinners'?"

Luk 5:31 Jesus heard about it and spoke up, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick?

Luk 5:32 I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders--an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out."

Visual example (use a chair or chairs to show this)

• A group of chairs in a circle all hooked together: the group of regular teens who attend the youth group.  
• A chair in the middle of the circle: the person who wants to be the center of attention.  
• A small cluster of three to four chairs off from the large circle: that group of people who stick together and won't let anyone into their group.  
• A few chairs outside the group: visitors to the youth group who can't seem to break through and be a part of the group in the circle.   
• A chair next to the door: a brand new person who has just entered the group.  
• A chair outside the door, looking in: someone waiting to enter the youth group who is afraid to come in.  
• A chair up on top of the table: a person who criticizes and looks down on everyone else.  
• A broken chair or a chair that's different from all the others: a person in the group who may be a little bit different from the rest because of a handicap, a foreign accent, etc.  
  
Thought of the week:

What chair are you setting in?