

With thanks to Rabbi Zelig Pliskin for kindly giving me permission to use extracts from his book, "Guard Your Tongue" (based on "Chofetz Chaim").

הלכה of the Week

~ שמיירת הלשון ~

Rabbi Pliskin said he will be pleased to know these halachot are being publicised more widely, especially in view of the fact that his own father was a talmid of the Chofetz Chaim, who went to great lengths to make these laws better known.

True and false derogatory statements.

You are forbidden to relate anything derogatory (negative) about others. If a derogatory statement is true, it is **לשון הרע**. If it is false, even partially, it is called **מווציא שם רע** (literally, 'giving someone a bad name,' or *defamation of character*) and the offense is much more severe.

It is so important to remember and can not be repeated often enough that **true** derogatory statements are considered **لشון הרע**. The most common defense to a rebuke for speaking **לשון הרע** is,

"But it is true!"

!לשון הרע!

פרק א' of the Week

פרק ה
יד ארבע מדות בידעות. נוח לבעום ונוח לרצות, יצא שכרו בהפסדו, קשחה לבעום וקשחה לרצות, יצא הפסדו בשכרו קשחה לבעום ונוח לרצות חסיד. נוח לבעום וקשחה לרצות רשע:

There are four types of temperament:

- One who is angered easily and pacified easily, his gain is offset by his loss;
- One who is hard to anger and hard to pacify, his loss is offset by his gain;
- One who is hard to anger and easy to pacify is pious;
- One who is easily angered and hard to pacify is wicked.