Five Questions to Ask Before You Listen to a Gossip / Slander:

a. What is your reason for telling me this?
b. Where did you get your information?
c. Have you gone to those directly involved?
d. Have you personally checked out all of the facts?
e. Can I quote you if I check out the facts?

THINK Before You Speak:

T. Is it True?
H. Is it Helpful?
I. Is it Inspiring?
N. Is it Necessary?
K. Is it Kind?

EXODUS 20:16 You shall not give false witness against your neighbor.

The 9th Commandment forbids:

1. Falsely accusing someone in a criminal case:

   Safeguards for those accused of a capital crime:
   Two or three witnesses needed (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; Deut. 19:15).
   The accuser has to throw the 1st stone (Deut. 17:7; cf. John 8:7).
   If accuser lies he suffers the accused sentence (Deut. 19:18-20).

(While the 9th Commandment specifically forbids the worst kind of lie
that condemns an innocent party, it is also a prohibition of all forms of
falsehood.)

Eph 4:22-25 put off your old self... be made new in the attitude of
your minds; and to put on the new self, 24 created to be like God in
true righteousness and holiness.
25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully
to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

God is a God of truth.

Rom 3:4 "Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true." Heb 6:18 "It’s
impossible for God to lie." John 14:6 Jesus says of Himself: "I am the
Truth." John 1:14 Jesus came "from the Father, full of grace and
truth", and Isa. 53:9 "there was no deceit in his mouth" John 17:17
Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit "The Spirit of Truth."
In contrast Jesus said of the devil,

John 8:44 there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Prov 6:16-19 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue... a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. (c.f. Zac 8:17)

2. “White Lies”

Prov. 20:21 A lying tongue hates those it hurts.
Eph 4:15 speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Love doesn’t lie nor is it unkind or tactless.)

3. The sin of silence:
Eph 4:26 ...speaking the truth in love in ways that are helpful for building others up...
Prov 3:27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

4. Gossip: “Saying something about someone behind their back that you would never say to their face.”

Prov 26:20-22 Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down... The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.

Prov 16:28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.

5. Slander: “Destroying another’s credibility or reputation with damaging facts, distorted facts or evil suspicions.”
James 4:11-12 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it... There is only one Lawgiver and Judge,

6. Flattery: Insincere or excessive praise. “Flattery is saying something to someone’s face that you would never say about them behind their back.”

Prov 26:28 Flattery is a form of hatred and wounds cruelly, TLB
Prov 29:5 Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his feet.

7. Pretending to be better (more righteous) than we are:
Rom 3:21-25 now a righteousness from God, apart from law... this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.
1 John 1:8-10 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.