

## **Sin of Speech**

God places enormous importance on our speech. Matthew 12:26  
It is easy for believers to become involved in significant speech without knowing it.

### **I. Slang, Crude, and Inappropriate Speech**

Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 5:4, Matthew 5:37

Using God's name in any way other than worship, honor, and praise.

Engaging in off color jokes and conversation

Using slang to add emphasis to what you are saying

Examine your speech and allow God to reveal to you anything that is inappropriate

### **II. Lying**

Colossians 3:9

Lying or exaggerating to make yourself look better

Cheating or misleading people or institutions

Not following through with promises, vows, and commitments you make to God and to others

If your word is not your bond then you will be considered unreliable

Falling short in things you say you will do reveals an integrity problem

God hates lying and inconsistency

### **III. Complaining**

1 Corinthians 10:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The children of Israel continually complained about God's provision.

We are commanded to rejoice and give thanks in all things

A lifestyle of continual praise is essential to pleasing God

It is impossible to be a complainer and walk in the power of God's Spirit

Why do some people gripe and complain?

We can be filled with the attitude of gratefulness and praise or grumbling and complaining

We can look on the negative side of things or trust God for supernatural joy

Do you make excuses for your complaining?

Complaining will block God's full blessing on your life

It is impossible to praise and complain at the same time.

### **IV. Critical, Angry, Speech**

Ephesians 4:31

Most church fights and splits are caused because the world's patterns have infiltrated the church

People are so ready to disagree and fight at the drop of a hat

God expects His people to be different

We are to be a place of healing and transformation not a place of bickering

Irritable and cranky speech can reflect an underlying anger and impatience with those around us

We need to learn to speak kindly to those around us...love one another

We must not gossip, slander, or speak evil of others behind their back

## **V. Divisive Speech**

1 Corinthians 1:10

Most Christians argue over things that are not even important

This is one of the most effective tools that Satan has

A sure sign of immaturity is a divisive, contentious spirit

We are suppose to put the desires and needs of others ahead of our own

It is impossible to be Spirit-filled and be argumentative and contentious

Walking in love would probably take care of most of our interpersonal conflicts

Nothing dishonors Christ or pleases Satan more that bickering among God's people

A small minority of immature people can quench the Holy Spirit for the entire church

Many have the ability to convince themselves that they are fighting for a good cause

We can build up or tear down

We can find a reason to be positive or give into the negative

Subtle sins of attitude and speech are often more dangerous to a church than obvious outward sins

God can transform your heart so that He can transform your speech

## **VI. Critical or Slanderous Speech Against Church Leaders**

1 Timothy 5:17

Many churches have forgotten the biblical principle of respect and honor for those who lead the church.

In many churches the Holy Spirit is quenched because the congregation has sinned against a pastor  
or church leader

Some fail to respect and honor those called to lead a church

Some undermined the authority of the leadership