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3:8-11

When people do not like the One True God, and the rules which He has put in place, they redefine God and make him a god who lets them do what they want to do. Sexually coveting what is not yours is one of the quickest ways to replace God's rule and authority with an idol, the idol of self.

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Each sin listed has the potential to cause division and harm to the unity of the church.

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The unity or disunity of a church is greatly affected by the personal holiness of its members.

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2 Corinthians 12:20

“For I fear that perhaps when I come I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish—that perhaps there may be quarreling, jealousy, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder.

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1. Anger

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James 1:19-20

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Ecclesiastes 7:9

“Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.”

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Anger typifies fools and the unrighteous, but should not be typical of the Christian.

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Proverbs 22:24

“Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.”

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Ephesians 4:26-27

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Don't let it grow but kill it off each day.

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How would anger “give Satan an opportunity”
in your life?

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Ephesians 4:31-32

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger
and clamor and slander be put away from
you, along with all malice. Be kind to one
another, tenderhearted, forgiving one
another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

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Would forgiveness help you to kill anger?

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YES!

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2. Wrath

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Romans 12:17-21

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What does Paul mean by “placing a burning coal on their head”?

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Sins of Speech: malice, slander, obscene talk, and lying.

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3. Malice

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Malice – the desire to cause harm to another.
Such harm is often brought about by speech.

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1 Peter 2:1-3

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Have you tasted that the Lord is good? If so,
then it should be evident by the way you use
your tongue.

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Romans 1:28-39

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James 3:6-12

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4. Slander

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Slander is a way of speaking designed to damage someone's reputation and character. It usually involves lying, partial truths, or misrepresenting the truth.

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Romans 1:29b-32

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Matthew 15:18-19

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5. Obscene Talk

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Obscene talk covers a wide range: negative, abusive, belittling, vulgar, curse words, and all-around unholy speech.

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Ephesians 4:29

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Are my words building others up, or tearing them down?

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Ephesians 5:4

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How much filthy, foolish, or crude speech should be allowed in the Christian's life?

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6. Lying

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Ephesians 4:25

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.”

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John 8:44

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Ephesians 4:20-24

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Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

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These groups were so divided that there was nothing that could bring them together, but now they are unified.

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What did Christ form with all of these different people?

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The church

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Series: Colossians

Sermon: Colossians 3:8-11

1. In Matthew 12:33-37, Jesus teaches that words matter and represent the heart of man. Given the passages that we have looked at today, and possibly others, what could you say are some types of speech that we should not partake in?

2. The sins of slander and malice are mentioned often in the Bible and can be found in lists of sins that include murder. A. First, wrap your mind around what malice and slander are in regard to speech. These words are not used often, and all could benefit in defining and explaining them.

Malice-

Slander -

3. In 2 Timothy 3:3-5, slander is found in another listing of sins. According to Paul in verse 5, what is to be the response of Christians to those who are slandering?

Paul appears to make the same point in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. What does this avoidance and not being unequally yoked look like in real life for us as believers?

4. Paul did not specifically list “gossip” as a sin of speech in Col. 3:8, as he did elsewhere (2 Cor. 12:20, 1 Timothy 5:13) but most likely it is included under the umbrella of malice and slander. What is gossip and why should Christians avoid speaking it and hearing it as well (Prov. 17:4)?

5. Christians are not perfect and do sin, yet we are told not to associate with sinners. If we take that truth as an absolute, then there would be no one on earth to associate with. What would you do if a close friend who was a professing Christian was practicing one or more of the sins listed in Col. 3:8 more and more.
