



**“ANYTHING BEYOND THIS...”**

Our most powerful tool for good  
or weapon for evil = words

# **SLANDER** (Biblical description)

- describes how unbelievers talk about believers (*1 Peter 2:12, 3:16*)
- describes the talk of a “fool” (*Prov. 18:10*)
- describes the speech of an “enemy”  
(*Ps. 41:4-7*)

## **SLANDER** (Biblical description)

- not simply word choice, but heart attitude/purpose (*Mt. 15:19*)
- associated with many other evil traits/behaviors (*11 Cor. 12:20, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, Eph. 4:31, Col. 3:5-10*)
- Listed as one reason to cut off association with someone (*1 Cor. 5:9-11*)

**diabolos** > devil > slanderer  
(*Zech. 3:1, Rev. 12:10*)

“throw/thrust/hurl/pierce *through*”  
i.e. defame, *slander*

“judge your neighbor” – refers  
to condemnation, not evaluation

“judge the law” – The law tells us to consider others with love; therefore, seeking to destroy someone with words is a refusal to **accept** the **authority** of the law.

Let no debt remain outstanding except the continued debt to LOVE ONE ANOTHER, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law (*Rom. 13:8*)



If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,” you are doing right.

*(James 2:8)*

“God is law giver and judge” – God gives law and applies that law he gave.  
Refusal to care about the effects of your words is equivalent to saying “God’s expectations do not matter.”

Speak only what you know to be **true**.

“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully with his neighbor. (*Eph. 4:29*)

Do not shade, slant, or edit the truth  
to their disadvantage.

Even negative or accusatory words should be **balanced** by love.

“... only what is wholesome for building other up” (*Eph. 4:29*)

“Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. (*Lev. 19:16-17*)

**Consider** that a reputation can be ruined by your words.

- A good name is more desirable than great riches... (*Prov. 22:1*)
- Do to others as you would have them do to you. (*Luke 6:31*)

Speak only what is **necessary** for the discussion or decision

- God is in heaven, so let your words be few  
*(Ecc. 5:2)*
- Simply let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no. ANYTHING BEYOND THIS comes from the evil one. *(Mat. 5:31)*

Weigh the **purpose** of your words so that they are not simply “stirring up” discussion.

- A perverse person stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friends. (*Prov. 16:28*)
- If you cover over an offense, you promote love, but if you repeat the matter you separate close friends. (*Prov. 17:9*)