THE QUESTION

What examples of gossip, slander, backbiting and whispering do early Christian writers give?

Asked by a THF member on April 12, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 28 early Christian passages and 147 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-examples-of-gossip-slander-backbiting-and-whispering-do-early

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers describe these sins through plain examples: speaking against a brother, a whisperer who cannot keep what he was told, rumors that mix lies with truth as they spread, false accusers who push innocent people out, and chatter that mocks others even during prayer. They also warn that gladly believing slander shares in the sin.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

Slander means speaking against your own brother

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome lists whispering and evil-speaking among the sins that God hates, and then quotes the Psalm that pictures a man sitting down to speak against his brother. Cyprian uses the picture of biting one another, the image behind the word backbiting, and warns that people who do this end up consumed by one another.

1 “You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 26, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2 “But if you bite and find fault with one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 19, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Listening to slander shares in the sin

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hermas gives a step-by-step example. First someone speaks evil, then another person enjoys hearing it and believes it, and soon the listener has something to say against his brother too. He calls slander restless, because it never stays at peace.

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3 “First, do not speak evil of anyone, and do not enjoy listening to anyone who speaks evil of another person.”

later in the same passage

“For if you believe it, you too will have something to say against your brother. In this way, then, you will be guilty of the sin of the one who slanders.”

later in the same passage

“For slander is evil, and it is an unstable demon. It never stays in peace, but always remains in conflict.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hermas,** *Shepherd* (c. 90–150 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

A whisperer cannot keep a confidence

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria explains an old saying about not keeping a swallow in the house. He reads it as a warning against welcoming a chatty whisperer who repeats what was told in private. He also links murmuring with the slander of constant fault-finding.

4 “That means you should not receive a talkative, whispering, chatty person who cannot keep to himself what has been told to him.”

later in the same passage

“The murmuring of the turtle-dove also points to the ungrateful slander of fault-finding, and so it is rightly driven out of the house.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 5.5 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 8, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Rumors twist the truth as they spread

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian describes how a report works. Even when it starts with something true, people add to it, leave things out, or mix up facts. It begins in one mouth and passes from ear to tongue, often driven by rivalry, suspicion, or the fun of making up news.

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5

"Even at the moment when it reports the truth, it is not so free from the wish to lie that it does not weave falsehood in with truth, by adding things, taking things away, or confusing different facts."

later in the same passage

"This often happens because of rivalry, a suspicious temper, or even the pleasure of making up news."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Ad Nationes* 7 **Source 12, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

False reports wound innocent servants of God

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian answers ugly stories being spread about a fellow Christian and calls such lies the devil's work to stain a good name. The Apostolic Constitutions warn church leaders that some people are slanderous and eager to scatter the flock, so leaders must check whether an accuser speaks from ill will or envy.

6

"But about certain disgraceful and malicious things that are being spread around concerning him, I would not have you wonder, since you know that this is always the work of the devil: to wound God's servants with lies, and to defame a glorious name by false opinions, so that those who are bright in the light of their own conscience may be stained by the reports of others."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

7

"Ask whether they are accusing out of ill will or envy. For there are many who delight in doing harm, who are rash in speech, slanderous, haters of the brothers, and make it their business to scatter the sheep of Christ."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** **Source 21, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 7

Gossip can break out even during worship

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Commodianus gives a scene from church life. While the priest prays for the people, some turn to idle tales, mock him, or run down a neighbor's good name, as if God did not hear or see.

8 “He entreats the Highest on behalf of a devoted people, lest anyone should perish, and you turn yourself to fables. You mock him, or detract from your neighbor's reputation.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Commodianus,** *Writings* (c. 250–300 AD) **Source 24, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Being double-tongued is named a deadly trap

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

The Didache places evil-speaking and a double tongue among the sins of the way of death. Saying one thing to a person and another behind their back is the pattern behind much gossip, and it calls this a snare of death.

9 “You shall not speak evil. You shall bear no grudge. You shall not be double-minded or double-tongued, for to be double-tongued is a snare of death.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages mostly describe these sins through lists, warnings and short scenes, not long stories of real cases.
- They do not give exact definitions that sharply separate gossip, backbiting, slander and whispering from one another.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

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WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 28 early Christian passages and 147 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–28, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 29–116, in Bible order), then 59 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *28 passages from 12 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 2 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** "shall not covet the things of your neighbour, Exodus 20:17 you shall not forswear yourself, Matthew 5:34 you shall not bear false witness, Exodus 20:16 you shall… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 7) of things incorruptible, how much more of those which are corruptible! Do not be hasty with your tongue, for the mouth is a snare of death. As far as possible… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English; on point 7) "are prone to evil-speaking, who know not Him that made them, who are murderers of children, destroyers of the workmanship of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 4–6*

4 *Shepherd* **Quote 3, page 3** "But if you listen, you will share in the sin of the one who speaks evil, if you believe the slander you hear. For if you believe it, you too… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Shepherd* "haughtiness, insolence, lies, backbiting, hypocrisy, remembering wrongs, and every kind of slander. These are the deeds that are most wicked in human life. Therefore, the servant of God must restrain… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Shepherd* "Deceit. And their followers are called Sorrow, Wickedness, Wantonness, Anger, Falsehood, Folly, Backbiting, and Hatred. The servant of God who bears these names will indeed see the kingdom of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · source 7*

7 *Epistles of Ignatius* "you in the Lord! Be sober. Lay aside, each of you, all malice and beast-like fury, evil-speaking, slander, filthy speaking, lewdness, gossip, arrogance, drunkenness, lust, greed, vanity, envy… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 8–11*

8 *Stromata* 5.5 **Quote 4, page 3** that a swallow should not be kept in the house. That means you should not receive a talkative, whispering, chatty person who cannot keep to himself what has been told… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Instructor* 2.6 (1885 English) "10:19 Sins of the tongue, therefore, shall be punished… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Stromata* 1.10 (1885 English) "as those whose speech is evil are no better than those whose practice is evil (for calumny is the servant of the sword, and evil-speaking inflicts pain… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Instructor* 3.11 "These excuses for coming together cause disorder, as men and women mix together for the sake of looking at one another. In this way, the gathering has already shown itself… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Ad Nationes* 7 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 4** "it creeps on somehow to ears and tongues which pass it on and so obscures the humble error in which it began, that no one considers whether the mouth which… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Apology* 7 (1885 English; on point 4) "is rumour such an evil thing? Is it because it is fleet… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *On the Veiling of Virgins* 15 dam of scandals, against suspicions and whispers and emulation, and even against envy itself. For there is something, even among the heathens, to be apprehended, which they call Fascination, the… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 15*

15 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (1885 English; on point 5) "if those demons who excite the tongues of men to slander were so infuriated by that work, in which he had not as yet fully unveiled their secret proceedings, what… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 16–20*

16 *Epistles* (1885 English) "whist the apostle says: Let no corrupt communication proceed from your mouth, but that which is good to the edifying of faith, that it may minister grace unto the hearers… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** "But in respect to certain discreditable and malignant things that are bandied about concerning him, I would not have you wonder when you know that this is always the work… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 1) "a few bishops who ought to furnish both exhortation and example to others, despising their divine charge, became agents in secular business, forsook their throne, deserted their people, wandered about… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Epistles* **Quote 2, page 2** not consumed by one another. I also beg you to keep away from abusive and insulting speech, for revilers do not attain the kingdom of God. And the tongue that… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Epistles* "besides, Paul the apostle writes and says the same thing: "Whisperers, backbiters… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 21–23*

21 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** "whether they do not accuse out of ill-will or envy: for there are many that delight in mischief, forward in discourse, slanderous, haters of the brethren, making it their… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 5) "7:2; Luke 6:37. If, therefore, you judge without respect of… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 7) "shall you be mindful of injuries; for the ways of those that remember injuries are unto death… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 24*

24 *Writings* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 5** "mock him, or detract from your neighbour's reputation… [continues online] **read ›**

Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 25*

25 *Against the Heathen* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) "matters believed on calumnious reports not proved by any certain evidence… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 26–28*

26 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 1, page 2** "if we follow the way of truth, casting away from us all unrighteousness and iniquity, along with all covetousness, strife, evil practices, deceit, whispering, and evil-speaking, all hatred of… [continues online] **read ›**

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27 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English) “thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 1) “us clothe ourselves with concord and humility, ever exercising self-control, standing far off from all whispering and evil-speaking, being justified by our works, and not our words… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *88 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

29 **Leviticus 19:16** You shall not go about with deceit among your nation; you shall not rise up against the blood of your neighbor. I am the Lord your God. **read ›**

30 **Numbers 14:27** “How long must I bear with this evil congregation? I have heard what they grumble before me, the grumbling of the children of Israel which they have grumbled concerning you. **read ›**

31 **Deuteronomy 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

32 **Psalms 10:7** His mouth is full of cursing and bitterness and deceit; under his tongue are toil and trouble. (Septuagint Psalm 9:28 (Psalm 10:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

33 **Psalms 15:3** who has not deceived with his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbor, nor taken up an insult against those nearest to him; (Septuagint Psalm 14:3 (Psalm 15:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

34 **Psalms 31:13** for I have heard the blame of many who live all around; when they gathered together against me, they plotted to take my soul. (Septuagint Psalm 30:14 (Psalm 31:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

35 **Psalms 34:13** Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. (Septuagint Psalm 33:14 (Psalm 34:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

36 **Psalms 41:7** All my enemies whispered against me; against me they devised evil for me. (Septuagint Psalm 40:8 (Psalm 41:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

37 **Psalms 50:19** Your mouth multiplied wickedness, and your tongue wove deceit. (Septuagint Psalm 49:19 (Psalm 50:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

38 **Psalms 50:20** You sat and spoke against your brother, and you set a stumbling block before your mother’s son. (Septuagint Psalm 49:20 (Psalm 50:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

39 **Psalms 52:2** your tongue has devised unrighteousness; like a sharpened razor you have worked deceit. (Septuagint Psalm 51:4 (Psalm 52:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

40 **Psalms 52:4** You have loved all words that swallow up, a deceitful tongue. (Septuagint Psalm 51:6 (Psalm 52:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

41 **Psalms 59:12** For the sin of their mouth, the word of their lips, let them be caught in their pride; (Septuagint Psalm 58:13 (Psalm 59:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

42 **Psalms 64:3** who have sharpened their tongues like a sword; they have bent their bow, a bitter thing, (Septuagint Psalm 63:4 (Psalm 64:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

43 **Psalms 101:5** Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him I drove away; with one who is proud in eye and whose heart is never satisfied, with him I would not eat. (Septuagint Psalm 100:5 (Psalm 101:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

44 **Proverbs 6:19** An unrighteous witness kindles lies, and sends disputes between brothers. **read ›**

45 **Proverbs 10:18** Righteous lips cover hostility, but those who utter abuse are most foolish. **read ›**

46 **Proverbs 11:11** but by the mouths of the ungodly it is torn down. **read ›**

47 **Proverbs 11:13** A double-tongued man reveals counsels in the council, but he who is faithful in spirit hides matters. **read ›**

48 **Proverbs 16:28** A crooked man sends out evils, and will light a torch of deceit with evils, and he separates friends. **read ›**

49 **Proverbs 16:30** And he who fixes his eyes devises perverse things, and marks out all evils with his lips; he is a furnace of wickedness. **read ›**

50 **Proverbs 17:4** A bad man listens to the tongue of the lawless, but a righteous man does not pay attention to lying lips. **read ›**

51 **Proverbs 18:8** Fear casts down the lazy, and the souls of the unmanly will hunger. **read ›**

52 **Proverbs 20:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

53 **Proverbs 25:23** The north wind stirs up clouds, and a shameless face provokes the tongue. **read ›**

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54 **Proverbs 26:22** The words of the cunning are soft, but they strike into the chambers of the inward parts. **read ›**

55 **Proverbs 26:28** A lying tongue hates the truth, and an unguarded mouth causes disorders. **read ›**

56 **Jeremiah 9:8** Their tongue is a wounding arrow; the words of their mouth are deceitful; one speaks words of peace to his neighbor, but within himself he holds hostility. (Septuagint Jeremiah 9:7 (Jeremiah 9:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Jeremiah 11:3** and you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord God of Israel: Cursed is the man who will not listen to the words of this covenant, **read ›**

58 **Jeremiah 20:10** For I heard the blame of many gathering round about: “Conspire, and let us conspire against him”—all his friends. “Watch his intention, whether he will be deceived, and we will prevail against him and take our vengeance on him.” **read ›**

59 **Jeremiah 30:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

60 **Jeremiah 33:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

61 **Jeremiah 40:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

62 **Jeremiah 49:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

63 **Jeremiah 51:4** And the slain will fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and those pierced through, outside her. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:4 (Jeremiah 51:4 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

64 **Jeremiah 51:6** Flee from the midst of Babylon, and let each one save his life, and do not be cast away in her unrighteousness; for it is the time of her punishment from the Lord; he is paying her back a repayment. (Septuagint Jeremiah 28:6 (Jeremiah 51:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

65 **Ezekiel 15:3** Will they take wood from it to make it into anything for work? Will they take a peg from it to hang any vessel on it? **read ›**

66 **Ezekiel 20:12** And I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them. **read ›**

67 **Daniel 2:12** Then the king in wrath and anger commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. **read ›**

68 **Daniel 2:14** Then Daniel answered Arioch with counsel and discretion—Arioch, the king’s chief cook, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon: **read ›**

69 **Daniel 11:13** And the king of the north shall return and bring a multitude greater than the first; and at the end of the times of years an invasion shall come with a great army and with many possessions. **read ›**

70 **Hosea 5:5** And the arrogance of Israel shall be humbled before his face; and Israel and Ephraim shall be weak in their unrighteousness, and Judah also shall be weak with them. **read ›**

71 **Amos 1:9** Thus says the Lord: For three ungodly deeds of Tyre, and for four, I will not turn away from it, because they shut up the captivity of Solomon in Idumea, and did not remember the covenant of brothers. **read ›**

72 **Amos 1:10** And I will send forth a fire upon the walls of Tyre, and it shall devour its foundations. **read ›**

73 **Amos 1:11** Thus says the Lord: For three ungodly deeds of Idumea, and for four, I will not turn away from them, because they pursued their brother with the sword, and he destroyed the mother upon the earth, and seized his trembling for a testimony, and kept his onrush forever. **read ›**

74 **Micah 5:10** And it shall be in that day, says the Lord, that I will utterly destroy the horses from your midst, and I will destroy your chariots; (Septuagint Micah 5:9 (Micah 5:10 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

75 **Nahum 3:2** The sound of whips, and the sound of rattling wheels, and of the pursuing horse, and of the bounding chariot, **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:9** For there will be an inquiry into the counsels of the ungodly man, and the report of his words will come to the Lord, to convict him of his lawless deeds. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:10** For a jealous ear hears all things, and the muttering of complaints is not hidden. **read ›**

78 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:11** Beware, then, of useless grumbling, and keep your tongue from slander; for no secret word goes out empty, and a lying mouth slays the soul. **read ›**

79 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:13** Glory and dishonor are in speaking, and a man’s tongue is his downfall. **read ›**

80 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:14** Do not be called a gossip, and do not lie in ambush with your tongue; for shame is upon the thief, and an evil condemnation upon the double-tongued. **read ›**

81 **Wisdom of Sirach 9:18** A talkative man is feared in his city, and he who is rash in his speech will be hated. **read ›**

82 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:31** For he lies in wait, turning good things into evil, and on choice things he will lay blame. **read ›**

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83 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:33** Beware of an evildoer, for he devises evil things, lest he give you a lasting blemish. **read ›**

84 **Wisdom of Sirach 12:16** The enemy will speak sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he will plan to throw you down into a pit; the enemy will weep with his eyes, but if he finds an opportunity, he will not be satisfied with blood. **read ›**

85 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:15** Question a friend, for slander often happens; and do not believe every word. **read ›**

86 **Wisdom of Sirach 19:16** There is one who slips, but not from the soul; and who has not sinned with his tongue? **read ›**

87 **Wisdom of Sirach 20:24** A lie is an evil blot on a man; it will be continually in the mouth of the untaught. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:17** The mouth of the man of sound judgment will be sought in the assembly, and they will ponder his words in their heart. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:25** The lips of strangers will be weighed down by these things, but the words of those of sound judgment will be weighed on the scale. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:28** The gossip defiles his own soul, and will be hated where he lives. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:13** Do not accustom your mouth to coarse vulgarity, for in it is the word of sin. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:5** Of three things my heart was wary, and at the fourth I pleaded: the slander of a city, the assembly of a mob, and false accusation worse than death—all are hard to bear. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:15** The fighting of the proud is bloodshed, and their abuse of one another is painful to hear. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:22** He who winks with the eye devises evil, and no one will turn him away from it. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:23** Before your eyes he will make your mouth sweet, and he will marvel at your words; but afterward he will twist his mouth, and set a stumbling block in your words. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:13** Curse the gossip and the double-tongued, for they have destroyed many who were at peace. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:14** A third tongue has shaken many, and driven them from nation to nation; it has pulled down strong cities, and overthrown the houses of nobles. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:15** A third tongue has driven out courageous women, and deprived them of their labors. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:18** Strangers rose up together against him and were jealous of him in the wilderness, the men with Dathan and Abiram, and the congregation of Korah, in wrath and anger. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:5** from the depth of the belly of Hades, from an unclean tongue and a lying word— **read ›**

101 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:8** For their tongue is polished by a craftsman, and they themselves are overlaid with gold and with silver; but they are false and cannot speak. **read ›**

102 **1 Maccabees 11:11** Ptolemy found fault with Alexander because he coveted Alexander's kingdom. **read ›**

103 **1 Enoch 95:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **Luke 8:17** For nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **read ›**

105 **John 3:13** No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended out of heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven. **read ›**

106 **Romans 1:29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness; secret slanderers, **read ›**

107 **Romans 1:30** backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **read ›**

108 **Romans 3:14** their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; **read ›**

109 **Romans 9:4** who are Israelites; whose is the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service, and the promises; **read ›**

110 **Romans 9:7** Nor are they all children because they are Abraham's seed. But, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." **read ›**

111 **Galatians 1:8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach to you a gospel other than what we preached to you, let him be cursed. **read ›**

112 **Ephesians 4:31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, outcry, and slander be put away from you, with all malice. **read ›**

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113 **Colossians 3:8** But now you also must put away all these things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and shameful speech from your mouth. **read ›**

114 **James 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. Thus the tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting the course of life on fire, and itself set on fire by hell. **read ›**

115 **1 Peter 2:1** Putting away therefore all wickedness, all deceit, hypocrisies, envies, and all evil speaking, **read ›**

116 **Jude 1:16** These are grumblers and complainers, walking according to their own lusts; their mouth speaks boastful things, flattering people for gain. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *59 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Exodus 20:7

Job 11:2

Psalms 34:11 · 34:14 · 50:16 · 50:18 · 133:1

Proverbs 1:33 · 3:34 · 27:2

Matthew 5:34 · 5:42 · 6:12 · 7:2 · 7:9 · 8:4 · 12:37 · 18:3

Luke 1:52 · 6:30 · 6:37 · 21:14

John 2:3 · 8:12 · 8:44 · 10:16 · 12:25 · 12:28 · 14:6

Acts 3:14 · 8:30

Romans 1:26 · 1:32 · 3:15 · 8:29 · 12:8 · 12:9 · 13:14

1 Corinthians 1:23 · 9:23 · 14:13

2 Corinthians 6:14

Galatians 5:10 · 5:19

Ephesians 2:14 · 2:20 · 6:9 · 6:12

Philippians 3:15

2 Timothy 3:2

Titus 3:2

Hebrews 13:17

James 1:8 · 4:6 · 4:11

1 Peter 4:3 · 5:5

1 John 2:3

Revelation 3:21

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What examples of gossip, slander, backbiting and whispering do early Christian writers give?” on April 12, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY