This talk examines discourse in a sociolegal framework, finding complicated interrelationships among ways of speaking, attitudinal stance, religious ideology, community role, and personal experience with crime. Interviews carried out between 2011 and 2012 with 200 Salvadorans and 79 Guatemalans (police officers, elementary and junior high school teachers and principals, community development leaders, clergy, and youth group leaders), together with sixteen focus groups held during that period, reveal a diversity of stances and ideological positions on gang membership.