

9th Commandment: **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**, Ex 20:16

Perspectives from the Westminster Larger Catechism

As you look into the WLC 144-145, do you see how an emphasis on loving your neighbor versus hating him emerges? How is this rooted in loving God? How does discipleship surface, without bookwormism?

Q144: What are the duties required in the ninth commandment? A. The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man,(1) and the good name of our neighbour, as well as our own;(2) appearing and standing for the truth;(3) and from the heart,(4) sincerely,(5) freely,(6) clearly,(7) and fully,(8) speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice,(9) and in all other things whatsoever;(10) a charitable esteem of our neighbours;(11) loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name;(12) sorrowing for,(13) and covering of their infirmities;(14) freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces,(15) defending their innocence;(16) a ready receiving of a good report,(17) and unwillingness to admit of an evil report,(18) concerning them; discouraging tale-bearers,(19) flatterers,(20) and slanderers;(21) love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth;(22) keeping of lawful promises;(23) studying and practising of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.(24)

(1) Zech. 8:16

(2) 3 John 12

(3) Prov. 31:8,9

(4) Ps. 15:2 **[Who shall dwell on your holy hill? ² He who walks blamelessly...and speaks truth in his heart**

(5) 2 Chron. 19:9

(6) 1 Sam. 19:4,5

(7) Josh. 7:19

(8) 2 Sam. 14:18-20

(9) Lev. 19:15; Prov. 14:5,25

(10) 2 Cor. 1:17,18; Eph. 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]**

(11) Heb. 6:9; 1 Cor. 13:7

(12) Rom. 1:8; 2 John 4; 3 John 3,4 **[I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth]**

(13) 2 Cor. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:21

(14) Prov. 17:9 **[Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends]**

1 Pet. 4:8 **[Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins]**

(15) 1 Cor. 1:4,5,7; 2 Tim. 1:4,5

(16) 1 Sam. 22:14

(17) 1 Cor. 13:6,7 **[(love) ...does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things]**

(18) Ps. 15:3

(19) Prov. 25:23

(20) Prov. 26:24,25 **[Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit in his heart; ²⁵ when he speaks graciously, believe him not, for there are seven abominations in his heart]**

(21) Ps. 101:5

(22) John 8:49; Prov. 22:1 **[A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold]**

(23) Ps. 15:4

(24) Phil. 4:8 **[Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things]**

What is forbidden in the 9th commandment?

The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbours, as well as our own,(1) especially in public judicature;(2) giving false evidence,(3) suborning false witnesses,(4) wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, out-facing and overbearing the truth;(5) passing unjust sentence,(6) calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked;(7) forgery,(8) concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause;(9) and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves,(10) or complaint to others;(11) speaking the truth unseasonably;(12) or maliciously to a wrong end,(13) or perverting it to a wrong meaning;(14) or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice;(15) speaking untruth,(16) lying,(17) slandering,(18) backbiting,(19) detracting,(20) tale-bearing,(21) whispering,(22) scoffing,(23) reviling,(24) rash;(25) harsh;(26) and partial censuring;(27) misconstructing intentions, words, and actions;(28) flattering;(29) vain-glorious boasting;(30) thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others;(31) denying the gifts and graces of God;(32) aggravating smaller faults;(33) hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession;(34) unnecessary discovering of infirmities;(35) raising false rumours,(36) receiving and countenancing evil reports,(37) and stopping our ears against just defence;(38) evil suspicion;(39),(41) rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy;(42) scornful contempt;(43) fond admiration;(44) breach of lawful promises;(45) neglecting such things as are of good report,(46) and practising, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.(47)