

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 134. Which is the sixth commandment?

A The sixth commandment is, *Thou shalt not kill.*¹
1. Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17.

Q 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?

A The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves¹ and others² by resisting all thoughts and purposes,³ subduing all passions,⁴ and avoiding all occasions,⁵ temptations,⁶ and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any;⁷ by just defense thereof against violence,⁸ patient bearing of the hand of God,⁹ quietness of mind,¹⁰ cheerfulness of spirit;¹¹ a sober use of meat,¹² drink,¹³ physic,¹⁴ sleep,¹⁵ labor,¹⁶ and recreations;¹⁷ by charitable thoughts,¹⁸ love,¹⁹ compassion,²⁰ meekness, gentleness, kindness;²¹ peaceable,²² mild, and courteous speeches and behavior;²³ forbearance, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil;²⁴ comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.²⁵

1. Eph. 5:28–29. 2. 1 Kings 18:4. 3. Jer. 26:15–16; Acts 23:12, 16–17, 21, 27. 4. Eph. 4:26–27. 5. 2 Sam. 2:22–23; Deut. 22:8. 6. Matt. 4:6–7; Prov. 1:10–11, 15–16. 7. Gen. 37:21–22; 1 Sam. 24:12, 26:9–11. 8. Ps. 82:4; Prov. 24:11–12; 1 Sam. 14:45; Jer. 38:7–13. 9. James 5:10–11; Heb. 12:9; 2 Sam. 16:10–12. 10. 1 Thess. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:3–4; Ps. 37:8, 11. 11. Prov. 17:22. 12. Prov. 23:20; Prov. 25:16, 27. 13. 1 Tim. 5:23. 14. Isa. 38:21. 15. Ps. 127:2. 16. 2 Thess. 3:12; Eccl. 5:12. 17. Eccl. 3:4, 11; Mark 6:31. 18. 1 Sam. 19:4–5; 1 Sam. 22:13–14. 19. Rom. 13:10. 20. Luke 10:33–34. 21. Col. 3:12–13. 22. James 3:17. 23. 1 Pet. 3:8–11; 1 Cor. 4:12–13; Prov. 15:1; Judg. 8:1–3. 24. Matt. 5:24; Eph. 4:2, 32; Rom. 12:17, 20–21. 25. 1 Thess. 5:14; Matt. 25:35–36; Prov. 31:8–9; Job 31:19–20; Isa. 58:7.

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