

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 143. Which is the ninth commandment?

A The ninth commandment is, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*¹

1. Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20.

Q 144. 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 neighbor, 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 neighbors;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 talebearers,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 practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.²⁴

1. Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:25. 2. 3 John 12. 3. Prov. 31:8–9. 4. Ps. 15:2. 5. 2 Chron. 19:9. 6. 1 Sam. 19:4–5
7. Josh. 7:19; 15–20. 8. 2 Sam. 14:18; 19–20; Acts 20:27. 9. Lev. 19:15; Prov. 14:5, 25. 10. 2 Cor. 1:17–18;
Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9. 11. Heb. 6:9; 1 Cor. 13:7. 12. Rom. 1:8; 2 John 4; 3 John 3–4. 13. 2 Cor. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:21;
Ps. 119:158. 14. Prov. 17:9; 1 Pet. 4:8. 15. 1 Cor. 1:4–5, 7; 2 Tim. 1:4–5. 16. 1 Sam. 22:14. 17. 1 Cor. 13:6–7.
18. Ps. 15:3. 19. Prov. 25:23. 20. Prov. 26:24–25. 21. Ps. 101:5. 22. Prov. 22:1; John 8:49; 2 Cor. 11:1–12:13.
23. Ps. 15:4. 24. Phil. 4:8.

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