

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 145. What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, 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, outfacing 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 talebearing,²¹ whispering,²² scoffing,²³ reviling,²⁴ rash,²⁵ harsh,²⁶ and partial censuring;²⁷ misconstruing intentions, words, and actions;²⁸ flattering,²⁹ vainglorious 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 rumors,³⁶ receiving and countenancing evil reports,³⁷ and stopping our ears against just defense;³⁸ evil suspicion;³⁹ envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any,⁴⁰ endeavoring or desiring to impair it,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 practicing, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.⁴⁷

1. Luke 3:14; 1 Sam. 17:28; 2 Sam. 16:3; 1:9–10, 15–16. 2. Lev. 19:15; Hab. 1:4. 3. Prov. 19:5; Prov. 6:16, 19. 4. Acts 6:13. 5. Jer. 9:3, 5; Ps. 12:3–4; Acts 24:2, 5; Ps. 52:1–4. 6. Prov. 17:15; 1 Kings 21:9–14. 7. Isa. 5:23. 8. 1 Kings 21:8. 9. Lev. 5:1; Acts 5:3; 8–9; Deut. 13:8; 2 Tim. 4:16. 10. 1 Kings 1:6; Lev. 19:17. 11. Isa. 59:4. 12. Prov. 29:11. 13. 1 Sam. 22:9–10; Ps. 52:1–5. 14. Ps. 56:5; Matt. 26:60–61; John 2:19. 15. Gen. 3:5; Gen. 26:7, 9. 16. Isa. 59:13. 17. Col. 3:9; Lev. 19:11. 18. Ps. 50:20. 19. Ps. 15:3. 20. James 4:11; Jer. 38:4. 21. Lev. 19:16. 22. Rom. 1:29–30. 23. Gen. 21:9; Gal. 4:29. 24. 1 Cor. 6:10. 25. Matt. 7:1. 26. Acts 28:4; James 2:13. 27. Gen. 38:24; Rom. 2:1. 28. Rom. 3:8; Ps. 69:10; Neh. 6:6–8; 1 Sam. 1:13–15; 2 Sam. 10:3. 29. Ps. 12:2–3. 30. 2 Tim. 3:2. 31. Luke 18:9, 11; Acts 12:22; Ex. 4:10–14; Rom. 12:16; Gal. 5:26; 1 Cor. 4:6. 32. Luke 9:49–50; 2 Cor. 10:10; Acts 2:13; Job 27:5–6; 4:6. 33. Matt. 7:3–5. 34. Prov. 28:13; Gen. 3:12–13; Prov. 30:20; Jer. 2:35; 2 Kings 5:25; Gen. 4:9. 35. Prov. 25:9–10; Gen. 9:22. 36. Ex. 23:1. 37. Prov. 29:12; Ps. 41:7–8. 38. Acts 7:56–57; Job 31:13–14. 39. 1 Cor. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:4. 40. Matt. 21:15; Num. 11:29. 41. Ezra 4:12–13; Dan. 6:3–4. 42. Jer. 48:27. 43. Matt. 27:28–29; Ps. 35:15–16, 21. 44. Jude 16; Acts 12:22. 45. Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3. 46. 1 Sam. 2:24. 47. 2 Sam. 13:12–13; Prov. 5:8–9; Prov. 6:33.

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