

THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH



The Ten Commandments

1. What is God protecting with this commandment? Why is this so important?

God is protecting the gift of a good name. A person's reputation is important because it determines whether or not others will respect and trust him.

2. Define and/or give an example of each of the following, keeping in mind the sense of the Eighth Commandment.

- gossip

Any nasty speech, true or untrue, which hurt's another's reputation.

- slander

To defame another by unfounded verbal attack.

- defend

To protect another with one's speech.

- take words and actions in the kindest possible way

To be nonjudgmental and to give others the benefit of the doubt.

3. According to the following passages, what does God want us to do, and not to do, when we learn of another person's sin?

- "Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret..." (Proverbs 25:9).

Do not gossip the truth to others.

- "If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul" (Ezekiel 3:18,19).

Do not keep silent and allow a person to continue in sin.

- *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother” (Matthew 18:15).*

Speak to a person in an attempt to lead him to repentance.

- *“Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3).*

Forgive the penitent.

4. Explain the following passages. Give an example of the first. Why is it so difficult to keep one’s “whole body in check,” as mentioned in the second passage?

- *“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).*

God commands us not only to speak the truth but to do so in love. Examples will vary.

- *“If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body” (James 3:2).*

It is impossible to keep the whole body in check (that is, to keep from sinning) because we cannot keep our tongues in check. Sins of speech come very easily.

5. 1 Peter 2:22,23 reads: “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” What did Jesus do to save us from our sins against the Eighth Commandment?

Jesus saved us by keeping the commandment perfectly in our place—doing what God demands and refraining from what God forbids—and by suffering and dying for our sins of speech.