



A Year with the Catechism

(In preparation for next week.)

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Bible Passages

Brothers, do not slander one another. *[James 4:11]*

“Do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord.
[Zechariah 8:17]

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free. *[Proverbs 19:5]*

Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body *[Ephesians 4:25]*

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. *[Proverbs 11:13]*

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

[Proverbs 31:8-9]

Weekly Catechism Reading

Sunday: Genesis 37:12-36

Monday: p. 110 – Central Thought

Tuesday: p. 110 – Part 83

Wednesday: p. 110-112 – Part 84 (248-252)

Thursday: p. 111-112 – (253-257)

Friday: p. 112-113 – Part 85

Saturday: p. 113-114 – Part 87-End



A Year with the Catechism

Devotion

Bible Readings

Psalm 141:3-4

Devotion

Words are powerful things. If we spread gossip and lies, once free, they cannot be re-caged. A woman had a habit of spreading gossip. She loved hearing “the dirt” on people and was always eager to share it. Feeling some remorse for her public sin she went to her pastor for some advice. The pastor gave these instructions: “Take a feather pillow to the top of the highest hill on a windy day. There, rip the pillow open and scatter the feathers to the wind. Then come back.”

When she returned, the Pastor added, “Now go out into the countryside and fields and collect all the feathers.”

The woman protested, “That is impossible,”

The pastor said, ““Neither can you undo what your words have done. The pain and hurt you have caused cannot be undone.”

The woman inquired, “What am I to do?”

The pastor taught, “Only through repentance, admitting our sins, does God fix what we have broken. Only God can heal with you have hurt.”

Our words go far beyond where we think. People hear the way we speak, and they draw their own conclusions about the one who is speaking. Only the power of God’s forgiveness can undo the hurt we speak, and the lies we spread. Only God can keep our words truthful and helpful. Pray God would guard our lips from evil speech.

Prayer

O God, our Creator, you created us for Your worship and ordained praise from our lips. Guard and protect us that we may never speak falsely about anyone, but constantly share Your precious Gospel. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.