

**1 John 2:1-6**

(ESV)

*Christ Our Advocate*

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

**Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Question 14. What is sin?

Answer: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

**Psalm 103:10-12**

(ESV)

10

**He does not deal with us according to our sins,**  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12

as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions

**1 Corinthians 13:12**

(KJV)

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

**Psalm 55:21**

(ESV)

21

His speech was smooth as butter,  
yet war was in his heart;

his words were softer than oil,  
yet they were drawn swords.

**Matthew 19:16-30**

(ESV)

*The Rich Young Man*

16 And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal

life?" 17 And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; 19 Honor your father and mother; and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow me.**" 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." 27 Then Peter said in reply, "See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" 28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

**Westminster Larger Catechism**

**Q. 143. Which is the ninth commandment?**

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

**Matthew 22:36-40**

(ESV)

36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Proverbs 6:16-19**

(ESV)

16

There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:

17

*The Sin of Lying*

Lesson 4

Handout

*haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,  
18*

*a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,  
19*

*a false witness who breathes out lies,  
and one who sows discord among brothers.*

**Augustine's position on lying:** "...the lie is a sin, a recursively self-defeating action that shatters the image of the triune God in which we are made"

**Genesis 1:27**

*(ESV)*

27

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

**(Richard Wilbur in "Advice from the Muse")**

A breath which, drawing closer, may obscure  
Mirror or window with a token blur—  
That slight uncertainty which makes us sure

**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,**

**The preserving and promoting of the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own;**

**A charitable esteem of our neighbors.**

**Loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name**

**Sorrowing for and covering of their infirmities**

**Freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces**

**Defending their innocency**

**A ready receiving of a good report concerning them**

**Unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them**

**Discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers**

**Appearing and standing for the truth;**

**From the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice.**

**From the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth in all other things whatsoever;**

**Love and care of our own good name,**

**Defending it when need requireth;**

**Keeping of lawful promises**

**Studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.**

**Deuteronomy 27:11-14**

*(ESV)*

*11 That day Moses charged the people, saying,  
12 "When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.  
13 And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.  
14 And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice:*

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

**A. The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are,**

**All prejudicing the truth**

**All prejudicing of the good name of our neighbors**

**All prejudicing of our own good name ("as well as our own")**

**Psalm 36:9**

*(ESV)*

9

*For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light do we see light.*

**1 John 1:5**

*(ESV)*

*Walking in the Light*

*5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

**Revelation 22:5**

*(ESV)*

*The Sin of Lying*

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*5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

**Augustine:** “Your eyes participate in the light and so you see. Do they close? You have not diminished the light. Do they open? You have not increased the light.”

**Richard Wilbur** expresses this in his poem, “The Eye”:

“Correct my view.../that the lid’s closure frees me.”

**Exodus 19:16**

(ESV)

*16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.*

**Job 37:4**

(ESV)

4

*After it his voice roars;  
he thunders with his majestic voice,  
and he does not restrain the lightnings when his voice is heard.*

**Psalms 97:4**

(ESV)

4

*His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.*

**Matthew 24:27**

(ESV)

*27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*

**Revelation 4:5**

(ESV)

*5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,*

**Richard Wilbur** (from “Icarium Mare”).

Where else do lifting wings proclaim/  
The advent of the fire-gapped thunderhead,

**Especially in public judicature**

**Giving false evidence, suborning false witnesses, wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, outfacing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence,**

**Romans 13:1-7**

(ESV)

*Submission to the Authorities*

*13 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.** 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also **for the sake of conscience.** 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are **ministers of God, attending to this very thing.** 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.*

**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**

**Forgery**

**Concealing the truth**

**Undue silence in a just cause: Holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others**

**Speaking the truth unseasonably**

**Speaking the truth maliciously to a wrong end**

**Perverting...[truth]...to a wrong meaning**

**In doubtful or equivocal expressions,**

**To the prejudice of the truth or justice**

**Speaking untruth**

**Lying**

**Slandering**

**Backbiting**

**Detracting**

**Talebearing**

**Whispering**

**Scoffing**

**Reviling**

**Rash, harsh, and partial censuring**

**Misconstructing intentions, words, and actions**

**Flattering**

**Vainglorious boasting**

***Romans 3:9-11***

***(ESV)***

*No One Is Righteous*

*9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:*

*“None is righteous, no, not one;*

*11*

*no one understands;*

*no one seeks for God. Thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others*

**Denying the gifts and graces of God**

**Aggravating smaller faults**

**Hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession**

**Unnecessary discovering of infirmities**

**Raising false rumors**

**Receiving and countenancing evil reports**

**Stopping our ears against just defense**

**Evil suspicion**

**Envy or grieving at the deserved credit of any**

**Endeavoring or desiring to impair it,**

**rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy**

**Scornful contempt, fond admiration**

**Breach of lawful promises**

**Neglecting such things as are of good report**

**Practicing, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.**