

Theology Simply Explained — WSC78 “Hearts That Love Truth and Honor”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 78—especially explaining and applying that **the ninth commandment forbids not only misusing our mouths but anything that inhibits truthful understanding or honorable names.**

Q78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment? *The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbor's good name.*

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Our shorter. Catechism. Less than this week is in number 78. What is forbidden in the 9th commandment? The answer is that the 9th commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth. Or injurious to our own or our neighbors. Good name. And this answer the shorter, catechism recognizes that All obedience all godliness.

For us starts in the heart. And that if we are to be those who do not Bear. False witness. We have to first of all, Be those who love and desire and know the truth. And those who desire. For our neighbors and ourselves. To have a good name. First it says 9th commandment.

Forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth and this isn't just prejudicial to others. Believing the truth. Setting them up so that they Either do not receive or do not believe the truth, but for ourselves, So, the 9th commandment forbid, it's such things as being gullible. The Ninth commandment forbid, if Having a wrong foundation.

For truth. That we would consider ourselves and what we perceive or can understand as the basis are foundation for truth as opposed to God's word. As the basis in foundation for truth, the 9th commandment forbiddeth. What we would now call bad science. Interpreting God's world in a way that is.

That is driven by. False thinking, or Even worse false theology that produces false thinking. What's up for beds? Things like Googling and believing everything you read. Or reading a Wikipedia article and believing that everything in there is true. Forbids things like being a flat earther. Or an evolutionist. It for bids.

Assuming that everything that sinners tell you is true or that everything that crops up in your own mind and your own heart must be true or that, you're feelings about things must be right. The 9th commandment forbid yourself being prejudiced. Hey, in a way. That. Makes you less likely to believe what is true or more likely to be committed to something.

Or more likely to be committed to something. That isn't actually true. Answer. The first thing is to believe God and his word and to be wise And, Reserved in your judgments. So that you may be one who Actually believes that, which is true and increases not things that are falsely called knowledge, but increases an actual knowledge and with them and understanding, how are you going to tell the truth to others?

If you are not the sort of person who what you believe is actually true, So there's God as the great truth teller. There's the idea that All truth, then is communicated to us by God, first and foremost in his word, but also in his world and therefore to have a right idea about the Bible.

And a right idea about the reliability of the created order and what came from it and the wisdom that is Behind the created order. That said that we can interact with the world correctly, which is why the best science. And the best engineering. And the best right response to and use of what is in the world has grown up.

Especially among the most Christian cultures that because a knowledge of God, And a knowledge of his word and therefore a right understanding of where the world came from and how the world works generally, and God's faithful, mercy to us, in the reliability of it, and therefore not having this superstitious view of the world, but responding to how God constructed it to work, that is actually the basis of science.

And so if you try to have that without God himself, it will necessarily divulge. Maybe that's a little bit of a bunny crab but not too much of a bunny trail because it is part of what is What is forbidden in the 9th commandment? So, even things like, The atheism, or the purely materialistic view of the world that leads to things like evolutionism and so forth.

When we think about being prejudicial, That which is prejudicial to truth. Then with respect to others, there are many people who in order to sound smart, always want to have something to say in every conversation about every topic. The problem is you are not an expert on everything. And when we pull our ignorance that way we violate the 9th commandment In fact, probably having a just youth table or a youth children's table.

A church is a violation of the 9th commandment because there is such a Such a diffused concentration of actual knowledge. There and such a intense concentration. The opposite of knowledge, proud fantasies that masquerade as knowledge, that it is a violation of the Ninth commandment for them to do anything, but sit in silence and wait for someone who actually knows, something to come, sit down and start to talk.

And yet we know where we are, talking takes place than anywhere else. And so for you, a big part of it, a big part of not breaking the 9th commandment is learning to be quiet. Read your Bible. Get actual knowledge and interact with people who have been doing those things for longer than you have and who know God well and who know his word.

Well, so that you will be stored not just with truth from his word. But when you interact with people who who have those principles and then have actual Additional knowledge and various areas of light. You're on a better foundation for gathering knowledge that they have from their areas. And whether you apply this to the types of people, you have conversations with or the types of books that you read.

It is important to have actually true knowledge before you speak. So be quick quick to listen slow to speak, and in the meantime in between those two things, storing up actual knowledge. And then speaking in a way, That is limited to those things that you are sure of that, you know, will be helpful.

It's the whole think before you speak. Acronym is a true? Is it helpful? Is it important? Is it necessary? Is it kind? So, it forbids, the sort of thought, last, you know, untrue things, or unhelpful, things, or unimportant things, or unnecessary things, which is often unnecessary. Because of the timing or importance, like, in in the previous idea or unkind things.

So that's the first part. The 9th Amendment forbid is whatsoever is prejudicial. That's a truth. Whether you're thinking about your Growing in accumulating knowledge of the truth or you being helpful to others, in, whatever you can communicate only being true. And then the second part is the 9th, commandment forbidth whatsoever, is injurious to our own or our neighbor's.

Good name. So, the 9th commandment actually requires you to be godly. The reason is ungodliness is injurious to your good name. Someone discovering the truth about how wicked you are is not them in during your good name. It's you entering your good name. And then somebody trying to help you by telling you what they have seen in.

You is not them in during your good name. And then if you will not be helped. Someone coming to those who are in authority over you, to enlist them in their office, their role as a parent or as a husband, or an elder in the church. In order to help you is not them injuring, your good name by revealing, how bad you are.

You injured, your good name by being bad. And they are actually trying to help you get a better name. By enlisting, an employing, appealing to those who in God's economy, and God's design have been assigned to be your helpers. And so there's this idea of Never wanting anyone to think bad things about anyone.

Well that's actually not consistent with the 9th commandment because the first part is that we would believe what's true. Now, that doesn't mean that you spread the badness of the name, any further than is necessary for helping them, get rid of the badness of their name, right? If it starts with a love for the good name of your neighbor.

Then you don't want. How the truth about their badness to be known any further than is absolutely necessary. This is why private sins are confessed privately in public sins are confessed. Publicly. And the The telling of the, the The sand and the remedy. For the center working towards the remedy of this end does not expand the knowledge of the sin.

The desire is to attack sin and get rid of sin. Hey, in the ways that God has given us to do so, so that The badness can be eliminated of the good name game, be preserved and expanded. So this, of course, means not not only that, we desire ourselves to have a good name and so we trust in Christ.

So, the 9th commandment requires believing in. Jesus. Because it's the only way you can have a good name. The only way you can starch to be good is if you have been forgiven in Christ and if you start to be cleansed, By Christ by his spirit. So you believe in in the Lord Jesus so that you may be a new person and then when you are a new person, if you're someone who believes in the Lord, Jesus part of your maintaining, a good name is Employing the means of grace, mortifying sin and making use of those relationships that you have getting accountability from your parents, getting accountability from your elders, from your minister and so forth and pursuing godliness.

So that the name that will be on you is the name of Christ. That's the best name. You're your name. Only becomes good. The more that you are conformed to him. And his goodness. So that is how you avoid or Resist, defend against whatever is injurious to your own name.

But to your own good name. But then also with your neighbor, It means desiring that your neighborhood. Have a good name. Hoping the best about your neighbor believing. The best possible explanations for your neighbor and then especially within the church. It means speaking the truth to one another in love.

Right? So, if you since four and developing good doctrine and being used, however, you can not just following the Lord yourself, but desiring and And following the one another's of the New Testament and in order that we would stir up our brothers and sisters to love, and good works.

It means some things are simply as attending church and desiring your brother or sister to attend church and you know, when they're not there letting them know that you missed them being there not just because you missed them but because you want them to attend upon the public means of grace because that's how God sanctifies them.

And you want them to have a good name which means you actually want them to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we're designed by God. His design is for us to do this together. So that if we forsake the assembling of what Of ourselves together.

Then we are not going to be stirred up to love and good works. And so, That's, One, not an important, but one very specific detail of how to seek your neighbor's good name. And then,

The the 9th commandment forbid us then when we do know of weakness remaining weakness, remaining sin. Whether it's generally in the person or particular actions, That we would seek to help our brother or sister remedy that while seeking to limit. Others. Knowledge of or being scandalized by or thinking, little of our brother or sister to limit that as much as possible while our While the remedy is being applied.

So it does of course it forbids. Gossip. Telling others information making the making Personal or private, or limited knowledge to be public or known to others or increasing for somebody else. How many people know how much? Of the of the truth about their lives. It's just not ours to share.

Yeah, it prohibits slander. Speaking that about others. That we either know is untrue or do not know for a fact is true. Especially those things that are negative about them. Of course, it prohibits those things. But by talking about whatever is prejudicial or whatever is injurious, it reminds us.

That it starts in the heart, it starts in the life, it the 9th commandment. What the 9th commandment for bids is much more broad and much more deep than just specific words that we might say. About others starts with a love of truth. Starts with the love of. Of honor and dignity, a desire.

That we would have a good name that our brother or sister would have a good name. This is better even more important even than riches. Brother Christian was I remember if it was in the license or afterward? Reminded me yesterday of Live appeared in quote and when she said no I don't don't think it was Calvin.

But anyway, you said A good name is, is better than riches. And there are many people who. Would never go into their neighbor's house and steal. Apprised possession. How about they do? Not think twice. About saying something in a conversation that casts their neighbor in a negative light. And they're actually robbing them.

Of something that is. Much more valuable even in earthly terms. Then gold and silver and precious stones. So, So, the 9th commandment forbidth. Whatsoever is prejudicial to true. And whatsoever is injurious to our own. Or our neighbor's good name.