

Question 143: Which is the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Exodus 20:16
(KJV)

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Webster (1828):

FALSE, *adjective* [Latin falsus, from fallo, to deceive.]

Not true; not conformable to fact; expressing what is contrary to that which exists, is done, said or thought. A *false* report communicates what is not done or said. A *false* accusation imputes to a person what he has not done or said. A *false* witness testifies what is not true. A *false* opinion is not according to truth or fact. The word is applicable to any subject, physical or moral.

WITNESS, *noun*

Testimony; attestation of a fact or event.

To show or exhibit; to relate; as, to *bear* testimony or witness.

Question 144: What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; 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, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

“The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man...”

1 Kings 17:24
(ESV)

24 And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

1 John 5:6
(ESV)

*6 This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because **the Spirit is the truth.***

John 14:6-7
(ESV)

*6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*

“...between man and man...”

Zechariah 8:16
(KJV)

“These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates.”

“...the preserving and promoting of...the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own...”

3 John 1:12
(KJV)

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

Ephesians 4:25
(KJV)

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

“...appearing and standing for the truth...”

Proverbs 31:8-9

(KJV)

Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

“...and from the heart...”

Psalm 15:2

(KJV)

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psalm 15:2

(ESV)

2

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;

Matthew 15:11

(ESV)

11 It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

“...sincerely...”

2 Chronicles 19:9-11

(ESV)

*9 And he charged them: “Thus you shall do in the fear of the Lord, in faithfulness, and **with your whole heart**: 10 whenever a case comes to you from your brothers who live in their cities, concerning bloodshed, law or commandment, statutes or rules, then you shall warn them, that they may not incur guilt before the Lord and wrath may not come upon you and your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you will not incur guilt. 11 And behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the Lord; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the governor of the house of Judah, in all the king's matters, and the Levites will serve you as officers. Deal courageously, and may the Lord be with the upright!”*

“...freely...”

1 Samuel 19:4-5,

(KJV)

And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: 5 For he

did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

“...clearly...”

Joshua 7:19

(KJV)

*And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and **tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.**”*

“...and fully...”

2 Samuel 14:18-20

(ESV)

18 Then the king answered the woman, “Do not hide from me anything I ask you.” And the woman said, “Let my lord the king speak.” 19 The king said, “Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?” The woman answered and said, “As surely as you live, my lord the king, one cannot turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has said. It was your servant Joab who commanded me; it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your servant. 20 In order to change the course of things your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the angel of God to know all things that are on the earth.”

“...speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice...”

Leviticus 19:15,

(KJV)

Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor; nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.”

Proverbs 14:5, 25

(KJV)

“A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies...25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.”

Luke 12:11-12

(ESV)

11 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

“...and in all other things whatsoever...”

2 Corinthians 1:17-18
(ESV)

17 Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans **according to the flesh**, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? 18 As surely as God is faithful, **our word to you has not been Yes and No.**

“...a charitable esteem of our neighbors...”

Hebrews 6:9
(KJV)

But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

1 Corinthians 13:7,
(KJV)

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

“...loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name...”

Romans 1:8
(KJV)

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

2 John 1:4
(KJV)

I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

2 John 4
(ESV)

Walking in Truth and Love
4 I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

3 John 1:3-4
(KJV)

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

“...sorrowing for...”

2 Corinthians 2:4,
(KJV)

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

2 Corinthians 12:21
(KJV)

And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

“...and covering of their infirmities...”

Proverbs 17:9
(KJV)

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.

1 Peter 4:8
(KJV)

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

“...freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces...”

1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 7
(KJV)

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge... 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Timothy 1:4-5
(KJV)

Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 5 When I call

to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

"...defending their innocency..."

1 Samuel 22:14
(KJV)

Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honorable in thine house?

"...a ready receiving of a good report..."

1 Corinthians 13:6-7
(KJV)

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

"...and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them..."

Psalm 15:3,
(KJV)

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour:

"...discouraging talebearers..."

Proverbs 25:23
(KJV)

The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

"...flatterers..."

Proverbs 26:24-25
(KJV)

It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house. 25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

"...and slanderers..."

Psalm 101:5
(KJV)

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer."

"...love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth..."

Proverbs. 22:1
(KJV)

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

John 8:49
(KJV)

Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

"...keeping of lawful promises..."

Psalm 15:4
(KJV)

In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

"...studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report."

Philippians 4:8
(KJV)

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.