

## To Tell the Truth

April 23, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 3:9-11

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Truth: To win the battle against sin and live victoriously

You must live in light of your new identity of Christ! 2 Tim 1:9

### 1. Believers must be truthful in love.

- Are you always truthful? Check yourself against Larger Catechism Questions 144&145
- half-truth; lie of omission; exaggeration; 'white-lie'; 'polite-lie'; 'hypocrisy-lie'; 'silent-lie'; 'courtesy-lie'
- speak the 'truth-in-love' Eph 4:15
- love covers a multitude of sins 1 Pet 4:8

### 2. Believers are to be truthful as new creations in Christ 2 Cor 5:17

- Put off the old self – Similar idea Eph 4:20-24
  - Old self crucified with Christ no longer slave to sin Rom 6:6
  - We are new creations in Christ 2 Cor 5:17. Still sin struggle Rom 7:14-25
  - We must put on the new self, being renewed in knowledge v10
  - We have a new spiritual birth 1 Cor 15:45; Jn 3:6-7; 1 Pet 1:3
  - Get knowledge from God's Word Ps 19:7-14; 119:25, 50, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156; Jn 17:19 – crave pure spiritual milk 1 Pet 2:2-3
  - You are to be a theologian – know Christ: Col 2:3
- ### 3. Believers are to be truthful as members of Christ's body
- Since we are now created in the image of our Creator we are no longer what we were v11
  - Don't excuse your behavior by your past or origin
  - Christ changes everything- become like Him in truthfulness

### Discuss & Apply:

- Where do you struggle the most with being untruthful? Why?
- Is it wrong to be politely untruthful? How much of the truth about ourselves should we reveal to others?
- How do you balance truthfulness with maintaining confidences?
- How should being part of the body affect our truthfulness? What does that mean in real life?
- How does being in Christ and a new Creation help us with our truthfulness? Explain that to someone else.

## Westminster Larger Catechism – Modern English Version

### Q. 144. What does the ninth commandment require?

A. The ninth commandment requires that we maintain and promote truthfulness in our dealings with each other<sup>1</sup> and the good reputation of others as well as ourselves.<sup>2</sup> We must come forward and stand up for the truth,<sup>3</sup> speaking the truth and nothing but the truth from our hearts,<sup>4</sup> sincerely,<sup>5</sup> freely,<sup>6</sup> clearly,<sup>7</sup> and without equivocation,<sup>8</sup> not only in all matters relating to the law and justice<sup>9</sup> but in any and every circumstance whatsoever.<sup>10</sup> We must have a charitable regard for others,<sup>11</sup> loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good reputation<sup>12</sup> as well as regretting<sup>13</sup> and putting the best light on their failings.<sup>14</sup> We must freely acknowledge their talents and gifts,<sup>15</sup> defending their innocence,<sup>16</sup> readily receiving a good report about them<sup>17</sup> and reluctantly admitting a bad one.<sup>18</sup> We should discourage gossips,<sup>19</sup> flatterers,<sup>20</sup> and slanderers;<sup>21</sup> we should love and protect our own good reputation and defend it when necessary;<sup>22</sup> we should keep every lawful promise we make no matter what;<sup>23</sup> and finally we should do the best we can to focus our lives and thoughts on things that are true, noble, lovely, and admirable.<sup>24</sup>

1. Zec 8:16, Eph 4:25.

2. 3 Jn 12.

3. Prv 31:8-9.

4. Ps 15:2.

5. 2 Chr 19:9.

6. 1 Sm 19:4-5, Jer 9:3.

7. Jos 7:19, Jer 42:4, Acts 20:20.

8. 2 Sm 14:18-20, Acts 20:27.

9. Lv 19:15, Prv 14:5,25.

10. 2 Cor 1:17-18, Eph 4:25, Is 63:8, Col 3:9.

11. Heb 6:9, 1 Cor 13:4-5,7.

12. Rom 1:8, 2 Jn 4, 3 Jn 3-4.

13. 2 Cor 2:4, 12:21, Ps 119:158.

14. Prv 17:9, 1 Pt 4:8.

15. 1 Cor 1:4-5,7, 2 Tm 1:4-5.

16. 1 Sm 22:14, Ps 82:3.

17. 1 Cor 13:4,6-7.

18. Ps 15:3.

19. Prv 25:23.

20. Prv 26:24-25.

21. Ps 101:5.

22. Prv 22:1, Jn 8:49, 2 Cor 11:18,23.

23. Ps 15:4.

24. Phil 4:8.

### Q. 145. What particular sins does the ninth commandment forbid?

A. The ninth commandment forbids everything detrimental to the truth and the good reputation of others as well as our own,<sup>1</sup> with special reference to legal matters in the courts.<sup>2</sup> We must not give untrue evidence,<sup>3</sup> suborn perjury,<sup>4</sup> knowingly appear and plead on behalf of an evil cause, or engage in overbearing and boastful exaggeration.<sup>5</sup> We should never participate in passing an unjust sentence,<sup>6</sup> call evil good or good evil, or reward the wicked in a way appropriate to the righteous or the righteous in a way appropriate to the wicked.<sup>7</sup> Forgery is forbidden,<sup>8</sup> as is concealing the truth, remaining silent in a just cause,<sup>9</sup> and not taking it on ourselves to reprove<sup>10</sup> or complain to others about some wrong.<sup>11</sup> We must not speak the truth at an inappropriate time,<sup>12</sup> or maliciously to promote a wrong purpose,<sup>13</sup> nor pervert it into a wrong meaning,<sup>14</sup> into ambiguous equivocations, or in such ways as to undermine truth and justice.<sup>15</sup> Also forbidden are: saying anything untrue,<sup>16</sup> as well as lying,<sup>17</sup> slandering,<sup>18</sup> backbiting,<sup>19</sup> belittling,<sup>20</sup> gossiping,<sup>21</sup> whispering,<sup>22</sup> ridiculing,<sup>23</sup> reviling,<sup>24</sup> and expressing any kind of judgmental opinion that is rash,<sup>25</sup> harsh,<sup>26</sup> or prejudiced;<sup>27</sup> misconstruing intentions, words, and actions;<sup>28</sup> flattery<sup>29</sup> and ostentatious boasting;<sup>30</sup> thinking or speaking too highly or too poorly of ourselves or others;<sup>31</sup> denying the gifts of God or the effects of his grace on us;<sup>32</sup> exaggerating the significance of trivial faults;<sup>33</sup> concealing, excusing, or rationalizing our sinful behavior when we are called to confess it voluntarily;<sup>34</sup> gratuitously revealing the problems and failings of others;<sup>35</sup> spreading false rumors,<sup>36</sup> receiving and approving evil reports,<sup>37</sup> and refusing to listen to a just defense;<sup>38</sup> harboring evil suspicions;<sup>39</sup> being envious of or grieved by the deserved honors others receive,<sup>40</sup> trying to discredit those honors,<sup>41</sup> and rejoicing at someone else's disgrace or evil reputation;<sup>42</sup> scornful contempt<sup>43</sup> and foolish admiration;<sup>44</sup> breaking our lawful promises;<sup>45</sup> and, finally, failing to promote everyone's good name,<sup>46</sup> and doing, not avoiding, or not hindering in others, as we can, those things that give people a bad name.<sup>47</sup>

1. 1 Sm 17:28, 2 Sm 16:3, 1,9,10,15-16, Lk 3:14.

2. Lv 19:15, Hb 1:4.

3. Prv 19:5, 6:16,19.

4. Acts 6:13.

5. Jer 9:3,5, Acts 24:2,5, Ps 12:3-4, 52:1-4.

6. Prv 17:15, 1 Kgs 21:9-14.

7. Is 5:23.

8. Ps 119:69, Lk 19:8, 16:5-7, 1 Kgs 21:8.

9. Lv 5:1, Dt 13:8, Acts 5:3,8-9, 2 Tm 4:6.

10. 1 Kgs 1:6, Lv 19:17, Is 58:1.

11. Is 59:4.

12. Prv 29:11.

13. 1 Sm 22:9-10, Ps 52:1-5.

14. Ps 56:5, Jn 2:19, Mt 26:60-61.

15. Gn 3:5, 26:7,9.

16. Is 59:13.

17. Lv 19:11, Col 3:9.

18. Ps 50:20.

19. Ps 15:3, Rom 1:30.

20. Jas 4:11, Jer 38:4, Ti 3:2.

21. Lv 19:16.

22. Rom 1:29-30, Prv 16:28.

23. Gn 21:9, Gal 4:29, Is 28:22.

24. 1 Cor 6:10.

25. Mt 7:1.

26. Acts 28:4, Jas 2:13.

27. Gn 38:24, Rom 2:1, Jn 7:24.

28. Neh 6:6-8, Rom 3:8, Ps 69:10, 1 Sm

1:13-15, 2 Sm 10:3.

29. Ps 12:2-3.

30. 2 Tm 3:2.

31. Lk 18:9,11, Rom 12:16, 1 Cor 4:6, Acts

12:22, Ex 4:10-14.

32. Jb 27:5-6, 4:6, Gal 5:26.

33. Mt 7:3-5, Is 29:20-21.

34. Prv 28:13, 30:20, Gn 3:12-13, 4:9, Jer

2:35, 2 Kgs 5:25.

35. Gn 9:22, Prv 25:9-10.

36. Ex 23:1.

37. Prv 29:12, Jer 20:10.

38. Acts 7:56-57, Jb 31:13-14.

39. 1 Cor 13:4-5, 1 Tm 6:4.

40. Nm 11:29, Mt 21:15.

41. Ezr 4:12-13, Dn 6:3-4.

42. Jer 48:27.

43. Ps 35:15-16,21, Mt 27:28-29.

44. Jude 16, Acts 12:22, 1 Cor 3:21.

45. Rom 1:31, 2 Tm 3:3.

46. 1 Sm 2:24, 2 Sm 12:14.

47. 2 Sm 12:13-14, Prv 5:8-9, Phil 3:18-19,

2 Pt 2:2.