

339. What is the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (*Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20*)

340. What is bearing false witness against your neighbor?

It is to willfully communicate a falsehood about my neighbor, either in legal or in other matters, in order to misrepresent them. (*Deuteronomy 19:16–19; Psalm 109; Proverbs 12:17; Matthew 26:57–61*)

341. Why does God forbid such false witness?

Because it defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me with Satan, the father of lies. (*Psalm 52:1–5; Proverbs 25:18; Jeremiah 9:3–9; John 8:42–47*)

342. How is false witness given in public life?

Any willful misrepresentation of the truth in legal, civic, or business affairs bears false witness, rebels against God’s will, and subverts God’s justice. (*Exodus 23:1–3; Leviticus 6:1–7; Proverbs 11:1; 24:23–26, 28–29; Acts 6:8–15*)

343. How is false witness given in respect to the teaching of the Church?

All false or misleading teaching concerning the Christian faith bears false witness against the truth of God’s Word and abuses the authority given by Christ to his Body. (*Deuteronomy 13; Matthew 24:3–14; 2 Peter 2:1–3; 1 John 2:18–27*)

344. What other acts are forbidden by this commandment?

This commandment forbids all lying, slander, or gossip; all manipulative, deceitful, or insulting speech; and testifying falsely about myself for personal gain. (*Leviticus 19:15–17; Psalm 12:2–3; Proverbs 10:18; 11:12; 16:28; Matthew 5:21–22; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Peter 2:1*)

345. What sort of speech should you practice instead?

I should speak at all times with love, wisdom, and truth, so that my words may honor God, and comfort and encourage my neighbor. (*Psalm 32:2; Proverbs 12:17–20; 14:25; 15:1–4; Zechariah 8:16–17; Matthew 5:33–37; Ephesians 4:25*)

346. When is it right to speak of your neighbor’s sins?

I am forbidden to gossip or slander, but I must speak the truth in love, reporting crime, speaking against injustice, and advocating for the helpless. (*Leviticus 19:17–18; Proverbs 28:23; 31:8–9; Matthew 18:15–17; Ephesians 4:15–16; James 5:19–20*)

347. Must you always speak the whole truth?

To keep a confidence or to protect the innocent, I may at times need to withhold the whole truth; and I should always exercise discretion, that my candor may not needlessly cause harm. (*Exodus 1:15–21; Joshua 2:1–14; Proverbs 11:13*)

348. How does keeping this commandment help you to become like Christ?

By practicing love and truthfulness in speech, I grow in self-restraint, kindness, and honesty, so that I may know God with a mind free of deception, praise him with an undefiled tongue, and more truly love my neighbor. (*Proverbs 8:1–17; Matthew 15:10–20; Ephesians 5:1–4; James 3:1–12*)

Thank you for your SIX word submissions about the Ten Commandments

A wonderful guardrail given in love

Abiding with God in everyday life

Invitation to right relationship with God, others

footprints of safety we follow

in

scary, irrelevant, archaic, relentless, necessary, productive

memorized commands to obey God rightly

To please God keep the commandments

Simple in theory, hard in practice

Apply to daily life, stay vigilant

The Ten Best Ways to Live

We follow with the Spirit's guiding High standard. I can't. Jesus can. I love you. Choose life. Become.

The "theological" virtues are variants of love to God and his kingdom

Faith (trust in God),

Hope (for God's will to be done on earth as in heaven),

Love (eagerness to be close to God and to participate in God's kingdom):

The virtues of neighbor-love (see Galatians 5 and Colossians 3) fulfill the commandment to love one's neighbor

Joy: love to the neighbor in his good fortune

Compassion: love to the neighbor in trouble,

Generosity: love to the neighbor expressed in giving of self,

Forgiveness: love to the neighbor who has offended

Forbearance: love to the burdensome neighbor,

Faithfulness: love to the neighbor to whom you have special ties of obligation

Thankfulness: love to the neighbor who has blessed you,

Humility: love to the neighbor that is pure of self-importance,

Self-control: love to the neighbor against your contrary impulses,

Patience: love to the neighbor for whom you must wait,

Truthfulness: love to the neighbor in what you say

Kindness: love to the neighbor in small gestures

Gentleness: love to the neighbor in anticipation of his vulnerability

Justice: love to the neighbor by giving her what is due her