



45 Minutes in Luther's Catechism

8th Commandment

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

Exodus 20:16

Where are you on this scale? Your spouse?
For Youth, your parents?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jesus	Barnabas					Tabloid Press	The Accuser

- Describe the most immediate setting of this commandment.
In that setting, what's at stake?
- As with all the commandments, in the negative this commandment is against a specific sin.
In the positive, it is the protection of a blessing. What is that blessing protected here?
- So, if this commandment protects _____, what are some everyday situations this applies to?

"Everyone would much prefer that all the world should speak of him in glowing terms. Yet we cannot bear that the best is spoken about others." (Luther's Large Catechism, ¶264)

- How zealously does God guard this precious gift in OT Israel?

Deuteronomy 19:16-21

Leviticus 5:1

The Knowledge of God
Law and Gospel
Introduction to the Law
1st Commandment
2nd Commandment
3rd Commandment
4th Commandment
5th Commandment
6th Commandment
7th Commandment
▶ **8th Commandment**
9th & 10th Commandments
The Conclusion
The Gospel & the Nature of God
The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
1st Article (Creation)
1st Article (Preservation)
1st Article (Protection)
1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
2nd Article (Christ's Person)
2nd Article (Christ's Office)
2nd Article (Christ's Work)
2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
2nd Article (Christian Life)
2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
3rd Article (Calls)
3rd Article (Enlightens)
3rd Article (Sanctifies)
3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
3rd Article (Invisible Church)
3rd Article (Visible Church)
3rd Article (Forgiveness)
3rd Article (Eternal Life)
Baptism (Part 1)
Baptism (Part 2)
Holy Communion (Part 1)
Holy Communion (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 1)
Keys & Confession (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 3)
Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
The Address
1st Petition
2nd Petition
3rd Petition
4th Petition
5th Petition
6th Petition
7th Petition
The Doxology

5. Share a Bible story which highlights this commandment being either broken or kept.

6. Comment:

"I always tell the truth, even when it hurts."

"I don't always tell the truth, because sometimes it hurts."

Luther's explanation of this commandment, "...Take his words and actions in the kindest possible way."

Why would you not want to speak up when a person is falsely accused, or bad-mouthed?

8. How can this passage help you?

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:22-23

8. What do we need to do when we have hurt someone's reputation?

9. Luther's brief explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism:

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, keep us from sins of the tongue into which we so easily fall. Where we have failed, forgive us. Empower us to use the gift of speech in ways that benefit others. In our Savior's name we ask this. Amen.