



Q. 145. What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; giving false evidence, suborning false witnesses, wittingly [knowingly] appearing and pleading for an evil cause, outfacing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence, calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others; speaking the truth unseasonably, or maliciously to a wrong end, or perverting it to a wrong meaning, or in doubtful or equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of the truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, talebearing, whispering, scoffing, reviling, rash, harsh, and partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering, vainglorious boasting, thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; aggravating smaller faults; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; unnecessary discovering of infirmities; raising false rumors, receiving and countenancing evil reports, and stopping our ears against just defense; evil suspicion; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any; endeavoring or desiring to impair it, rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt, fond admiration; breach of lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report, and practicing, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.

What is Jesuitry? What is casuistry? - equivocation. The dictionary definition : a principle or practice, as casuistry, equivocation, or craft, ascribed to the Jesuits by their opponents. It is practiced by openingly stating one fact while qualifying it in the mind. It is the art of deception, causing people to take away an impression different from the whole truth.

Can deceit be justified in war? Spying, espionage, and deception in war are exceptions, if it is a just war. Rahab was told to deceive the people of the city by the spies who entered her house. God had commanded the total destruction of the whole city and its inhabitants. To deceive is not greater than to take their lives.

How to pray over the ninth commandment:

1. Recognise the value of truth to the holy character of God. Deut. 32:4
2. Let the fear of God and His truth rule your heart and your lips. Mal. 2:5,6.
3. Seek a testimony of always standing for truth. Rev. 1:9
4. Pray for moral courage to withstand temptation to deceive. Daniel
5. Pray for souls who are living under Satan's lies and arts of deception.
6. Pray for God to prosper the ministry of His truth to a lost world.
7. Pray for children to be delivered from the love of lying and to love the truth.
8. Pray for spiritual blindness to be lifted.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Ex. 20:16
Bible Reading Genesis 12

Lying is an endemic problem in human nature, due to the fall in Adam. Satan lied to Eve and deceived her. Adam's hiding in the garden was a denial of the truth of the fall itself. His excuses for his sin tell us how the first lie multiplied into a chronic problem. Man's propensity to deceive speaks volumes about our fallen nature, and how opposed to God we have become. Lying is an offence to a holy God, who is absolute truth. He is the God who cannot lie. This separation can only be repaired by the atoning blood of Christ, otherwise all liars shall be cast into hell (Rev. 21:8). The Larger Catechism is a good tool to help us comprehend the demands of this commandment.

Q. 144. What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

A. 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.

Perhaps when pressured to guard our lives and the honour of our names the temptation to lie is strongest. Abraham fell into this temptation when he chose to lie to Pharaoh in order to hide the fact that Sarah was his wife. His motive for this lie was to preserve life, namely his own life. He may have thought that to deceive a stranger and a false worshipper, was a lesser evil. He was wrong.

The evils of Abraham's sin were many:

- **He put Sarah at risk** of defilement, and endangered God's plan for a covenant child, the progenitor of Christ.
- He brought plagues upon the house of Pharaoh (v17) . God's mercy was that the truth was found out before irreversible harm was done.
- **He lost testimony** as the Lord's servant in the face of the ungodly, who proved to be more upright in this regard.
- **He acted in unbelief.** Abraham should have trusted the Lord to honour the truth. Speaking the truth is to honour the God of truth who is also our protector. It was a great mercy that God still protected Abraham, of which he was undeserving.