

Zion Lutheran Church wide study of the Catechism

Week 9

The 8th Commandment:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Luther calls this: God's Gift of a Good Reputation:

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Scripture verses:

- Proverbs 19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.
- Eph 4:25: Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

One of the Bible narratives that points to this teaching of false testimony speaks to all the false witnesses who testified against Jesus in Matthew 26: 59-61.

God forbids us to betray our neighbor, that is, to reveal our neighbor's secrets.

- Proverbs 11:13 say: A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

Further study Luther asks: *What does God require of us in the Eighth Commandment?* We should defend our neighbor, that is, we should speak up for and protect our neighbor from false accusations. Check out Proverbs 31: 8-9.

Other fabulous scriptures:

1 Corinthians 13:7 and 1 Peter 4:8...Love covers over a multitude of sins!