***Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.***

**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 innocence;
* 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 requires;
* keeping of lawful promises;
* studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

**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 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;
* misconstructing 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.