

New City Catechism Class

Week 12

Q12: What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

A12: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.

James 2:8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. (ESV)

*Matt 22:34-40, Rom 13:9, Gal 5:13-15

Discuss the question:

- Why does God require us to obey the 9th commandment “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” (Deut 5:20)?
- Why does God require us to obey the 10th commandment “you shall not covet.... anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Deut 5:21)?
- How are these two commandments related to each other?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What does James mean by “the Royal Law”?
- Read James 1:26-2:10... What is James addressing in this passage?
- Are there ways might we be insensitive to the “Royal Law” as these believers were?
- Read James 2:14-17
 - What are the good works/deeds that James is referring to?
 - Why would James say that faith without these acts of love is a dead faith?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- How is the 9th commandment related to the Royal Law?
 - Can this prohibition involve more than just lying or deception?
 - Why does the answer point out that the commandment requires the positive element of speaking the truth in love?
- How is the 10th commandment related to the Royal Law?
- How does a covetous or envious thought lead to unloving actions? (James 4:1-3)
 - What is at the heart of resenting what God has given someone else or us? Why is this so dangerous?
- What is the positive element that would be necessitated by the commandment to not be covetous? What is the opposite of covetousness? (Matt 5:38-42, James 2:14-17)

- What is the key to being content? (Philippians 4:12-13)