

Orthodoxy: Law - Truth and Generosity

New City Catechism Q.12: What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer: 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.



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

What does the law require? It requires me to love my neighbor through the truthful words I speak. Do not lie to your neighbor. Do not bear false witness about your neighbor. Do not slander your neighbor. Do not hide the truth from your neighbor. Do not be a poser or a pretender before your neighbor. Out of the heart the mouth speaks. If my heart is set on fire by hell, then my tongue is a tempest. It is by my tongue that relationships are destroyed because I’ve already destroyed them in my heart.

But if my heart is set aflame by the love of God in Christ, then my neighbor is loved by the truth. God is true, so his image bearers speak, to speak the truth. God is one in three, so his image bearers speak to be bound together in love. God is the restorer of the broken humanity, so his redeemed image bearers speak as members of one body. With our words we’re not at war, but we are those who speak the truth in love for peace, as far as it depends on us.

Why do I lie about myself to myself and others? I am afraid. I am afraid of who I am and who you think I am. I am afraid of who I will not be and what I will not be able to do if I am who I am. I am afraid of you being more than I am in beauty, prosperity, popularity, and comfort. I am afraid that you will have nothing to do with me if this is who I am, and less than you are. I am afraid of the verdict and the consequences of the verdict. So I lie. I lie to others, and then begin to believe the lies myself. Who will save me from the body who is a lie?

What does the law require? It requires that I love my neighbor by a grateful contentment. Do not desire...another’s house, dog, car, boat, job, wife, husband, child, church, dress, suit of clothes, shoes, lunch, dinner, vacation, personality, hair, abilities, gifts, or anything else that has been gifted to my neighbor from above. Out of the heart my whole being grasps for things that are not my own, but have been gifted to my neighbors whom God loves. When I desire them as my own, my idolatry makes me horizontally and vertically, not a lover, but an enemy.

But if my heart’s desire is the One who has set his steadfast loving heart on me, then he and my neighbor are loved by my desires for their glory and good. God is all powerful, and able to give me all I need. God is steadfast in his love, and will give me just what I need. God is wise, and will give me just what I need, when I need it. There is no competitor who can match him in his delight in me. Therefore, his love for me knows no bounds. I can be content. But that contentment is expressed in thankfulness and a restless generosity toward my neighbor for their good. My only desire toward them is that they experience the love of God I have through Christ Jesus.

Why do I desire other’s things, relationships, and situations? I am afraid. Why do I build relationships with others whose things, relationships, and situations, I desire? I am afraid. Why am I indifferent to those who do not have things, relationships, and situations I desire? I am afraid. I am afraid my life will not have meaning unless I have what I presently do not have. I am afraid of the meaning of my life if I associate with those who don’t or can’t have what I desire. I am afraid of being insignificant. I am afraid of my life being inconsequential. So I desire. I desire what is not my own but belongs to others. Who will save me from this body of death stench desire?

Thanks be to Christ Jesus. He bore my lying and covetous sinful heart and all its out workings, in his own body upon the tree. Cursed are all who are hung there. He paid for all my sin. I am, in my sinful lying and covetous self, dead with him upon the cross. My sins are forgiven. I am washed. I am accepted. I am, in his truth telling and generous resurrected person, alive with him. There is no condemnation in him. He's made me alive in him, and I give thanks. In his life I live repenting of all my weaknesses and sins for not loving my God and my neighbor in truth and desire, and by faith in him to love my neighbor in truth and desires of generosity.

Ministry Opportunities

Bradley Elementary - Lunch Buddies

If you are interested in building a relationship with those at Bradley Elementary School, and investing in a child's life, then being a Lunch Buddy is a good opportunity. Lunch Buddies is a mentoring program which meets twice a month on Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm. Volunteers sit with their student while they eat lunch and then break off into rooms to allow the students to read with the volunteers. The desire is to have a 1-1 ratio of students and volunteers. However, there are floaters available when volunteers miss. This program at the school is organized by volunteers from Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Therefore, there is a needed background check, both by Richland 1 and Eastminster. If you are interested please contact Jim Wilkerson and he will get you started on the paper work for the background check. If you have any questions please contact Jim.

Host an International Student in Your Home for Thanksgiving

This year, International Friendship Ministries (IFM), have lots of internationals who have signed up to be hosted this Thanksgiving! They don't know how many of them have spent time in an American home before, and how many have spent quality time with a Christian family, but its a great opportunity for them to have contact with Christians.

If you are interested in hosting one or more students in your home for Thanksgiving you can follow this link <https://www.ifmusa.org/meal-with-a-friend> If you are not able to host for Thanksgiving you might want to consider Christmas. These students are our neighbors who are sojourning among us. This is a great opportunity to build a relationship and introduce them to the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Global Mission

Our church's Global Mission Team (GMT) desires to send a special financial gift of \$1,000 to each of our missionaries at the end of 2019. Christ Covenant Church has funds remaining in the GMT Budget. The GMT's desire is to divide that sum into equal amounts and send them as gifts to each of the missionaries that have received support and/or have been connected to either Christ Church and Covenant Presbyterian. The GMT's goal is to increase that amount to \$1,000 per missionary. Therefore, the GMT is trusting the Lord to provide additional funds to accomplish this goal. Therefore, we are going to be taking a special Thanksgiving offering during the morning service on Sunday November 24th (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) for the Global Missions Offering. The aim of this offering is to enable us to accomplish the GMT's goal of giving a year end gift of \$1,000 to all the Missionaries that CCC is supporting. We will take two offerings on the 24th. The first will be for your regular tithes. The second offering will be the Global Missions Thanksgiving offering. We are asking that you pray seeking God's grace that in gratitude, faith, and joy you can give a gift beyond your tithe. Your additional check can be made payable to Christ Covenant Church and will go into the General Fund, but it will be used specifically for the Global Missions Thanksgiving Offering. If you are not available on the 24th to give to this special offering you may still send a check to the church for the "Global Missions Offering". If you have any questions you may contact Bruce Braswell, the Chairperson of the GMT. babraswell@earthlink.net

Ordination Service for Scott Dinkins Sunday November 24th 6:00 PM

We will be having a special ordination service on Sunday evening November 24th 6:00 pm at 3100 Covenant Road. Scott Dinkins has passed all his written and oral exams, and been approved by the Palmetto Presbytery for Ordination as a PCA pastor. The Session of Christ Covenant Church has called Scott to serve as Assistant Pastor. He will take his vows for ordination at this evening worship service. We will have a reception to follow with light refreshments in Petersen Hall. Plan to join your church family in this worship service and celebration of the ordination of Scott Dinkins. If you would like to assist in setting up for the reception or providing for the reception please contact Suzie Pardee suziepardee@gmail.com