

**QUESTION 11:**  
**WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH COMMANDMENTS?**

**ANSWER :** SIXTH, THAT WE DO NOT HURT OR HATE, OR BE HOSTILE TO OUR NEIGHBOR, BUT BE PEACEFUL, PURSUING EVEN OUR ENEMIES WITH LOVE. SEVENTH, THAT WE ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL IMMORALITY AND LIVE PURELY AND FAITHFULLY, WHETHER IN MARRIAGE OR IN SINGLE LIFE, AVOIDING ALL IMPURE ACTIONS, LOOKS, WORDS, THOUGHTS, OR DESIRES AND WHATEVER MIGHT LEAD TO THEM. EIGHTH, THAT WE DO NOT TAKE WITHOUT PERMISSION THAT WHICH BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE, NOR WITHHOLD AND GOOD FROM SOMEONE WE MIGHT BENEFIT.

**50 minute Lesson Outline:**

- Catechism Recap (5 mins)
- Introduction to Question (5 mins)
- Teaching Outline (15 mins)
- Discussion and Question Time (20 mins)
- Virtue Vision (5 mins)

**Bible Passage:** Romans 13:8–10

**Memory Verse:** Rom. 13:9

**Big Idea:** The commandments are all about loving God and loving others.

**Aim:** To help us understand that obeying God's commands involves loving him and loving others.

**Virtue:** Honesty

**LEADER'S NOTES:**

The Western world is becoming increasingly selfish and self-centered. The concept of community is being eroded, and people are living largely individualistic lives. God is a God of love who longs for his love to be imaged in his world. This lesson will help us consider what it is to love radically in the context of the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments. **The aim of the lesson is to help us understand how to love our neighbors as ourselves by obeying God's commands. We will be encouraged to consider our own hearts as we reflect on God's commandments and to remember that the commandments can be broken internally as well as externally.**

**Things to remember:**

- Be careful to communicate that obedience to God's commandments is a response to his grace and a wonderful way to glorify God.
- It is worth noting that some of us have very active consciences and may be aware of the various ways we break God's commandments. Be careful not to induce guilt, but rather point to Jesus.
- Develop a desire to show radical, others-centered love.

**CATECHISM REVIEW OF LAST WEEK, Q10**

**What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?**

**Answer : Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.**

## INTRODUCTION TO QUESTION 11

**Ask** the group to think of some recent news stories that focus on people causing harm to one another, people stealing from one another, and people seeking what is not theirs. Consider recent examples that show the lack of love that is evident in the world today among all sorts of people.

**Explain** that these commandments focus on how God's people relate to other people, those whom they live with and encounter day by day. Behind each of these commandments (stealing, murder, adultery) is wanting something that isn't yours or that God has not given you. ***These desires begin from an ungrateful heart.***

If you steal, you take something that isn't yours. Hating or murdering a person comes from a place of deep anger, which is rooted in either jealousy of what another person has or who they are, or in the fear that what is important to me is being threatened. Adultery is desiring someone that God has not given you. It results when someone is ungrateful for the husband or wife that God has given him or her and wants a relationship with someone else.

**Consider** how the world might be different if, instead of wanting what is not rightfully ours, people were more concerned with ***loving others well.***

## TEACHING OUTLINE

### QUESTION 11: WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE IN THE SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH COMMANDMENTS?

**Ask** the group, how the world defines love.

Often the world thinks of love in purely romantic ways. God really wants his people to live in a way that shows radical love to other people. The romantic idea of love emphasizes the idea that people fall in love—it's just *something that happens*. In contrast, the love that God wants his people to show to one another is something that people *must decide to do*.

**READ: Romans 13:8–10**

*8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

*9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

*10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Paul is explaining to the Christians how they must live. He references the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments and highlights for the Christians that to live in a way that glorifies God means keeping these commandments. They must not hate or harm other people; they must love the family God has given them; they must not steal; and they must not covet. Paul wants to show how Christians should live among their fellow believers and among those who do not follow Christ.

Direct your attention to verse 9, and see how this love should be shown. Is it a reserved love or a half-hearted love? No! We are commanded to love others in the same way that they love ourselves.

God's people should always be concerned for the safety, health, security, and respect of each and every person. Consider what that might look like in everyday life. God clearly commands that people should not harm others, desire what is not theirs, or steal from others. To avoid these sins is another way to love people well.

Be honest about the temptations you may face, whether it is to harbor in your heart, hatred, jealousy, or desires for what is not yours. Jesus has taken the punishment for your law-breaking! Be concerned to keep God's commands so that you might glorify God in response to his grace.

**Remember that Jesus has taken the  
punishment for your law-breaking!**

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

**How well do you serve your neighbors?** Describe some ways that you've recently served someone in your community.

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**What about your enemies? How do you pursue them in love?**

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**How do these commandments apply at home, work or your marriage?**

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## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Allow for several answers within your group before reading the provided response.)

- 1. How do I know if I've broken these commandments in my heart?** The Holy Spirit will help you see your personal law-breaking. You can pray to God to show you your heart sins. When you see them, you don't have to be discouraged. You can take them to the cross!
- 2. Surely God can't expect us to love everyone, can he?** Yes! God expects us to love and care for everyone we have contact with.
- 3. What should I do if I've stolen something?** The first thing you should do is repent and then you should seek to make the situation right, either by returning what you stole or paying for the item. It's hard to tell the truth about stealing, but God's commands are always for our good.

### Things to consider:

- Think carefully about how to show radical "others-centered" love.

## **VIRTUE VISION: Honesty**

Define honesty in your own words.

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Lies can be told by making up false information or failing to share relevant information that a situation calls for. Can you think of any examples?

Being honest doesn't just mean telling the truth. It means living in an honest way and keeping the law. After all, if you broke the law, you might be tempted to be dishonest to cover up your transgressions. **Honesty is about speaking and acting truthfully.**

### **MEMORY VERSE**

**"For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

**(Rom. 13:9)**