

The Heidelberg Catechism

112. What does the ninth Commandment require?

That I bear false witness against no one,¹ twist no one's words,² be no backbiter or slanderer,³ join in condemning no one unheard or rashly;⁴ but that on pain of God's heavy wrath, I avoid all lying and deceit⁵ as the very works of the devil;⁶ and that in matters of judgment and justice and in all other affairs, I love, speak honestly, and confess the truth;⁷ also, insofar as I can, defend and promote my neighbor's good name.⁸

¹ Prov 19:5, 9; ² Ps 15:3; ³ Rom 1:28-30; ⁴ Mt 7:1-2; Lk 6:37; ⁵ Jn 8:44; ⁶ Prov 12:22, 13:5; ⁷ 1 Cor 13:6; Eph 4:25; ⁸ Jn 7:24, 51; Col 4:6; 1 Pt 2:21, 23, 3:9, 4:8