

## **1 Pet. 3:8-9 (LD 43) "Giving a Blessing Instead"**

**For the Children:** The Lord Jesus said that a loving father does not give his children stones or snakes to eat. What about a loving *brother*? Would your parents be pleased if they gave you a nice sandwich to take to your brother, and you swapped it for a rock-sandwich, causing him to break his teeth? One of the main types of "food" God wants us to take to others – our brothers in the faith, and our neighbour-in-general – is the Truth of His Word. We are to bring Truth to others to help and to bless them. This what the Lord Jesus has done for us, for those who hated Him. **Questions:** What is the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment mainly about? How does love of God, His Word, and our neighbour, affect us? Why should we be concerned about blessing others?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Ninth Prohibition**

- 1) No Retaliation: V. 9 forbids retaliation for things people have said or done, which we perceive as harmful - especially with respect to the things we are tempted to say in retaliation.
- 2) Against Truth: The 9<sup>th</sup> commandment particularly has to do with how we use – or abuse – the Truth. That includes an abusive manner with the Truth – shouting, swearing, insulting; also lying and deceit; false witness, gossip and slander; and twisting the words of others (often using "half-truths").
- 3) Indirect Violations: Sometimes the Truth is by-passed, or used harmfully, without evil intent. Sometimes, the commandment is ignored by allowing others to break it without any attempt on our part to stop them. Note the repeated reminders in LD 36, 40 and here, that being a "silent by-stander" to sin.
- 4) Reasons to Watch What We Do with the Truth: If we love the Lord, and our neighbour – and especially our brother, for whom Christ died – we will seek to prevent harm to his name. This was Jesus' example (1 Pet. 2:21f), and His teaching (Mt. 5:38-48). Otherwise we would not be saved. We also remember that our brethren are His servants.

#### **Second Point: The Ninth Exhortation**

- 1) Love of the Truth and of Others: Positively, the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment exhorts us to use the truth for our neighbour's/brother's good. To do so, we must love the Lord and His Word, our neighbour and our brother. Our use of the Truth should be set in that context. Note that "brotherly" (v. 8) literally means "brotherly love." It lies in the centre of the 5 qualities there.
- 2) Mind and Emotions: When these things are in place, it affects our mind and our emotions. Note the 2 parallel terms in V. 8, "harmonious" (Lit., "of the same *mind*") and "humble" (lit., "lowly-*mind*ed") speak of the effect on the mind. The other 2 terms, "sympathetic" and "kind-hearted," speak of the emotional effect. See also Rom. 12:15. This arises from the effect of God's Word and our relationship with brethren in Christ. The unity and humility and compassion spoken of here should make a huge difference to what we say to - and about - others!
- 3) Blessing Others: Not only are we to ignore the insults of others, we are to seek to *bless* even our enemy. To "bless" is to "speak a good word." This what the Lord Jesus has done for us, when we were His enemies. He has given us His Word and Spirit, and blessed us richly. We are to do the same, sharing the Gospel; giving words of instruction, encouragement and admonition, and praying, to bless others.

#### **Third Point: The Ninth Calling**

- 1) Inheriting Your Blessing: Our calling to inherit a blessing is related to these 9<sup>th</sup> commandment issues. The Lord blesses us through the Truth others speak to us. But if we maintain bad relations with them we limit that benefit to ourselves. Moreover, if we demonstrate by false witness to others that we do not know the Lord Jesus, we cannot say we have received His saving blessings at all.
- 2) Treating Others as Heirs: Other believers are heirs of the same blessings. The Lord calls us to be a means for conveying some of His blessings. We do not want to deprive His servants of this.

### **Conclusion:**