

Question 145: What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; giving false evidence, suborning false witnesses, wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, outfacing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence, calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery, concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others; speaking the truth unseasonably, or maliciously to a wrong end, or perverting it to a wrong meaning, or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, tale bearing, whispering, scoffing, reviling, rash, harsh, and partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering, vainglorious boasting, thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; aggravating smaller faults; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; unnecessary discovering of infirmities; raising false rumors, receiving and countenancing evil reports, and stopping our ears against just defense; evil suspicion; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any, endeavoring or desiring to impair it, rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt, fond admiration; breach of lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report, and practicing, or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering: What we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.

The sins forbidden in the ninth commandment are...

...all prejudicing the truth...

...all prejudicing...the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own...

**1 Samuel 17:28-30
(ESV)**

28 Now his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle." 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?"

30 And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

**2 Samuel 1:9-16
(ESV)**

9 And he said to me, 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.' 10 So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord." 11 Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 13 And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." 14 David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. 16 And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'"

...especially in public judicature...

**Leviticus 19:15
(ESV)**

15 "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

**Habakkuk 1:4
(ESV)**

*4
So the law is paralyzed,
and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
so justice goes forth perverted.*

...giving false evidence...

**Proverbs 6:16-19
(ESV)**

*16
There are six things that the Lord hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:
17
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
18
a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,*

19
*a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.*

Proverbs 19:5
(ESV)

5
*A false witness will not go unpunished,
and he who breathes out lies will not escape.*

...suborning false witnesses...

Acts 6:13
(ESV)

13 and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,

Subornation of perjury

In American law, Scots law, and under the laws of some English-speaking Commonwealth nations, subornation of perjury is the crime of persuading or permitting a person to commit perjury, which is the swearing of a false oath to tell the truth in a legal proceeding, whether spoken or written. [Wikipedia]

...wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause, outfacing and overbearing the truth...

Jeremiah 9:3-5
(ESV)

3
*They bend their tongue like a bow;
falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land;
for they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not know me, declares the Lord.*

4
*Let everyone beware of his neighbor,
and put no trust in any brother,
for every brother is a deceiver,
and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.*

5
*Everyone deceives his neighbor,
and no one speaks the truth;
they have taught their tongue to speak lies;
they weary themselves committing iniquity.*

Acts 24:2-5
(ESV)

2 And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:
"Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, 3 in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. 4 But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. 5 For we have found this man a plague, one

who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

Save Me, O My God
(ESV)

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

3
*O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
2
many are saying of my soul,
"There is no salvation for him in God." Selah*

3
*But you, O Lord, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.*

4
*I cried aloud to the Lord,
and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah*

Psalm 12:3-4
(ESV)

3
*May the Lord cut off all flattering lips,
the tongue that makes great boasts,
4
those who say, "With our tongue we will prevail,
our lips are with us; who is master over us?"*

outface

verb
gerund or present participle: **outfacing**
disconcert or defeat (an opponent) by bold confrontation.

overbear

verb
overcome by emotional pressure or physical force.

...passing unjust sentence...

Proverbs 17:15
(ESV)

15
*He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous
are both alike an abomination to the Lord.*

...calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked...

Isaiah 5:23
(ESV)

23
*who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
and deprive the innocent of his right!*

...forgery...

Psalm 119:69

(ESV)

69

*The insolent smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts;*

Luke 16:5-7

(ESV)

5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7 Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

Luke 19:8

(ESV)

8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

...concealing the truth, undue silence in a just cause...

Leviticus 5:1

(ESV)

5 "If anyone sins in that he hears a public adjuration to testify, and though he is a witness, whether he has seen or come to know the matter, yet does not speak, he shall bear his iniquity;

Acts 5:3-9

(ESV)

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." 5 When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. 6 The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." 9 But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

...and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others...

1 Kings 1:5-6

(ESV)

Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.

Isaiah 59:4

(ESV)

4

*No one enters suit justly;
no one goes to law honestly;
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies,
they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.*

...speaking the truth unseasonably...

Proverbs 29:11

(ESV)

11

*A fool gives full vent to his spirit,
but a wise man quietly holds it back.*

...or maliciously to a wrong end...

1 Samuel 22:9-10

(ESV)

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, 10 and he inquired of the Lord for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Psalm 52:1

(ESV)

The Steadfast Love of God Endures

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of David, when Doeg, the Edomite, came and told Saul, "David has come to the house of Ahimelech."

52

*Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.*

...or perverting it to a wrong meaning...

Psalm 56:5

(ESV)

5

*All day long they injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.*

Matthew 26:60-61
(ESV)

60 but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward 61 and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'"

...or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice...

Genesis 3:5
(ESV)

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 26:7-9
(ESV)

7 When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance. 8 When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife. 9 So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'"

...speaking untruth...

Isaiah 59:13
(ESV)

13 transgressing, and denying the Lord, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

...lying...

Leviticus 19:11
(ESV)

11 "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

Colossians 3:9
(ESV)

9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

...slandering...

Psalm 50:20
(ESV)

20

*You sit and speak against your brother;
you slander your own mother's son.*

slander

noun: slander

the action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.

verb

make false and damaging statements about (someone).

...backbiting...

Psalm 15
(ESV)

Who Shall Dwell on Your Holy Hill?
A Psalm of David.

1

*O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?*

2

*He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;*

3

*who does not slander [KJV: "backbite the"] with his
tongue*

*and does no evil to his neighbor;
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;*

4

*in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
but who honors those who fear the Lord;
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;*

5

*who does not put out his money at interest
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things shall never be moved.*

back·bite

Verb

talk maliciously about someone who is not present.

...detracting...

detract (Oxford)

diminish the worth or value of (a quality or achievement).

cause someone or something to be distracted or diverted from.

James 4:11
(ESV)

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

Jeremiah 38:4
(ESV)

4 Then the officials said to the king, "Let this man be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm."

...tale bearing...

Webster (1828)

Talebearing,

adjective Officially communicating information.
noun The act of informing officiously; communication of secrets maliciously.

Leviticus 19:16,
(KJV)

"Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD."

...whispering...

Webster (1828)

whispering

participle present tense Speaking in a low voice; telling secretly; backbiting.
noun The act of speaking with a low voice; the telling of tales, and exciting of suspicions; a backbiting.

Romans 1:29-30
(ESV)

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

...scoffing...

Webster (1828)

Scoff: To treat with insolent ridicule, mockery or contumelious language; to manifest contempt by derision; with at.

Genesis 21:9
(KJV)

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Galatians 4:29
(ESV)

29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

...reviling...

Oxford Dictionary

reviling *noun* The act of *reviling* or treating with reproachful words.

Isaiah 51:7

(ESV)

7

"Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

1 Corinthians 6:10

(ESV)

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

...rash...

Webster (1828)

RASH, *adjective*

Hasty in council or action; precipitate; resolving or entering on a project or measure without due deliberation and caution, and thus encountering unnecessary hazard; applied to persons; as a *rash* statesman or minister; a *rash* commander.

Matthew 7:1

(ESV)

Judging Others

7 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

...harsh...

Webster (1828)

harsh: Rough; rude; abusive; as *harsh* words; a *harsh* reflection

Acts 28:4

(ESV)

4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."