

## Theology Simply Explained — CC100 “T.H.I.N.K. Before You Speak”

**Pastor walks his children through Children’s Catechism question 100—especially explaining how we must only speak what’s true... helpful, important, necessary, and kind.**

Q100. What does the ninth commandment teach us? ***To tell the truth.***

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Sophia your catechism question. This week is number 100. What does the ninth commandment teach us? And the answer is to tell the truth. So what does the ninth commandment teach us to tell the truth? Very good. Now, last week, we Learned together that the ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness.

Against thy neighbor. And the positioning of the ninth commandment and its place in the law of God. Taught us that one of God's greatest Earthly gifts to us, is our good name. As the scripture elsewhere says, A good name is more valuable more precious than riches. And in the second place.

The power and Value, the weightiness of words. that words are are able to Preserve, or injure the good name. weather of ourself or others. Well. When this catechism question asks the question, what does the ninth commandment teach us? we might be surprised having thought about those things that the importance of a good name.

Value of your reputation. The significance and impact the weightiness of words. All of this is involved in the ninth commandment and then we come. And we have this short little answer. To tell the truth. Well, that's because God has so designed things it is so consistent with his character.

That the truth.

Able to accomplish. The whole of the ninth commandment. Now, one thing that we must do is we must never lie. if you have to lie to quote unquote, preserve someone's good name. They don't have a good name. If the truth about them is such that. Telling it.

defames them, then they have defamed themselves. By their character or by their conduct. Now. Not all truths are ours to share. We are called upon sometimes in a Judicial case, whether it's a trial by the state or trial by the church. To tell the truth. In that case.

we have to tell the truth about what has happened. But, There are many situations in which we should say, Nothing at all. We usually, Think about this using the acronym that's where you take a word and every letter in the word. starts another word, which helps us with the idea, think before you speak.

And in keeping with your catechism question, the very first Consideration before you speak. Is, is it true? So think is t-h-i-n-k. You say, is it true? If it's not true, you don't say it. Not at all. The second consideration is, is it helpful? There are things to say that you might want to say, but it's not going to help.

Anyone understand or respond rightly or think rightly? It might also be a timing thing sometimes. you have something that you need to say to someone. And they are. Either in a situation or giving some kind of Indication letting you know, by their actions, you could tell from their actions their the way they're speaking that, it's not a good time, it's not something they're able to hear at the moment, it might not be helpful.

So, th is it true? Is it helpful? I is it important. Not everything needs to be corrected or stated. When you're six years old, you don't even know what's important. So, the safe rule of thumb is to just keep your mouth shut as much as possible. And listen. You're in the learning phase.

so that by listening and observing and hearing others and over time you gain wisdom to understand what's important and what's not it's being six is a good age at which to ask real questions in order to gain understanding But as far as telling things, one of the things we need to know in order to Speak well.

Is it important? There's there are many silly things. There are many, what the Bible calls idol. Things that we might talk about that just don't need to be talked about. And the Bible warns us that we will have to give an answer for every idle word. So, don't pile up on important words, don't pile up.

Idle words when the Bible gives us such a warning as that So is it true? Is it helpful? Is it important? is it necessary? Now this often has to do with, is it our job to tell this particular truth? There are some things that as a sister, who would be talking to one of her siblings or as a sister in Christ at church, you might say, you might not.

You're not anybody's mom yet. There are many things that a mom ought to say, because it's necessary. She's the mom. She has to train and instruct and correct, her children. Many things that a dad. for the dad to say it is necessary. Many things that the elders about spiritual things or maybe the deacons about Earthly things.

they've given a place that is necessary. At some point, Godsparing you and Growing You by Grace and giving you a long faithful life. you may one day be an older woman, who is still not being silly and not living to please yourself but living to, please.

The Lord and have gone through many things and you see younger women who don't want to be Keepers at home. Younger women who are not respecting or honoring or submitting to Their husband. Younger women, that Need not only your example but your example gives you the place and

Effectiveness or ability. In saying a few words to them, but it's mostly the example that admonishes, but it might be in that case necessary because in God's Providence, he has now given you this whole life. Of his Mercy to you. But in almost all cases, again. At your age.

it's not necessary for you. To be the one. Who says something? So, is it necessary? And then in the last place, is it kind? If it's something that might embarrass, A person. You might say it only privately, if it's something that's hard to hear. you make sure that you include with it.

The other words, that show affection and encourage and especially point to Christ. whether pointing to him, as the one who has taken away, our sins are pointing to him as the one in whom is all life and goodness for us to obey. So, you know, maybe saying it privately maybe pointing to making sure to include words of affection and words of the Gospel.

word choice. the vocabulary that you use. it can be very important. The manner in which you speak the tone of your voice. Deciding to do it personally where they can see your face. and and intentionally. Having a soft expression with kind eyes. and so forth, all of these things.

May involved may be involved with, is it kind? Is it kind is not always the same as, is it nice? God often. Says things to us that are difficult for us to hear. That don't feel nice. But he is being kind to us. And parents, as you have learned.

Because you are a child. Parents often have to tell their children. Things that don't feel nice to them. But they are being kind. And yet it always ought to operate out of a love for the person, a desire. for their good. So yes. To tell the truth is a good summary of what the ninth commandment teaches us.

And there's much more actually to say. About what the ninth, commandment teaches us, but the think before you speak really a a five-part. answer of what the ninth commandment teaches us teaches us. To say what is true? Was helpful. What is important? What is necessary? And what is kind?