

What did Jesus endure to bring forgiveness for our sins against this Command?

Protect Your Neighbor's Name! _____.

Luther gives us three ways to help our neighbor keep his good name. What are they? Give examples under each one.

1. _____

- *Proverbs 31:8-9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves....Defend the rights of the poor and needy."*

2. _____

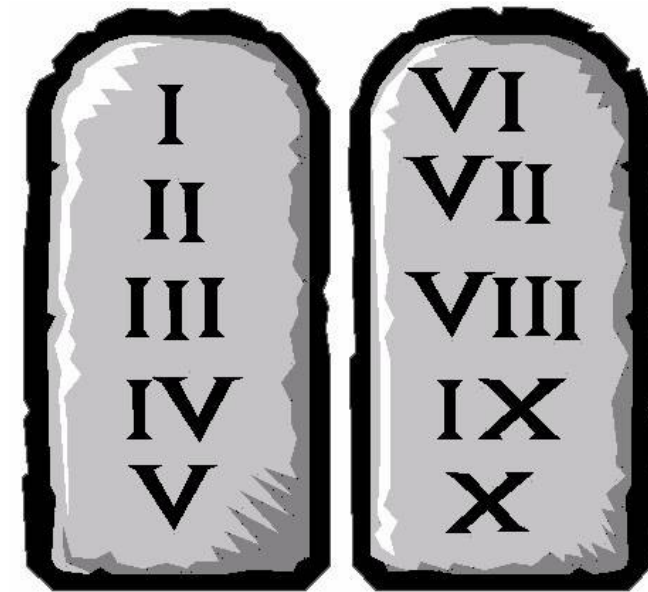
3. _____

- *1 Peter 3:8-10 "Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called..."*
- *Proverbs 10:12 "Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers all wrongs."*

During the week:

Take note of your conversations. Be reminded of today's message to always protect the good name of your neighbor!

God's Top Ten: #8



fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

AUGUST 24, 2008



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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GOD'S TOP TEN: PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOOD NAME!

Good morning! A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. (*Proverbs 22:1*) May we be encouraged to always speak well of others so we do not bear false testimony against our neighbors. May God bless our time of worship and learning this morning!

Opening Hymn..... “Oh, Worship The King”
Christian Worship Hymn 243

Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above;
Oh gratefully sing his pow'r and his love,
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy, space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

MESSAGE NOTES
AUGUST 24, 2008

**“God's Top Ten – Number 8:
Protect Your Neighbor's Good Name!”**

Give examples why the following Proverb is true:

Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak will of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

READ 2 Samuel 15:1-12

Protect Your Neighbor's Name! _____!

How did Absalom steal the good name of his father David?

How do we steal the good name of another person?

What motivates us to do this?

Welcome to Tree of Life!

The members of Tree of Life extend to you a hearty welcome! We are a congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS: www.wels.net).

As congregation of this synod we are striving to be a family where God is glorified and his saving message is shared with all people.

We don't claim to be the only saving church, but we do strive to preserve and pass on the truth as it's found in the Bible. We at Tree of Life believe and teach that...

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, with no mistakes and no errors, his unchanging message to all people of all times: **"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)**
2. God created people holy and without sin, but by their own choice they disobeyed God and brought sin upon the whole human race: **"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned." (Romans 5:12)**
3. The final result of sin is not only the end of our earthly life, but eternal death and separation from God in the agony of hell:
"The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)
4. The main and central message of the Bible is the gospel - the good news that:
"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but has eternal life." (John 3:16)
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life in the place of every human being, and Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for the whole human race when he died on the cross: **"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)**
6. God the Holy Spirit creates and strengthens saving faith in Jesus Christ through the message about him in the Bible, in Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper:
"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the words of Christ." (Romans 10:17)
7. Christians do good works, not in order to earn a place in heaven, but out of love and thanks to God who has already given them eternal life as a free gift through Jesus: **"I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free." (Psalm 119:32)**
8. Christians will want to gather together regularly around the Word of God for the strengthening of their own trust in Jesus and for encouraging each other in the faith: **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the (final) Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**
9. Christians want to carry out the Lord's great commission to spread the good news about Jesus to others: **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (Mark 16:15)**
10. When the Lord returns in judgment on the last day, he will raise all the dead and give the full glory of everlasting life in heaven to all who trusted in him as Savior:
"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4)

We invite you to worship with us again and we sincerely hope that you will accept this invitation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

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CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Hear, O people of God, the LORD your God, the LORD is one. He has given his commands to his people for them to know, understand and follow. As we look at the commandments he gave, we realize we have not been perfect as he is perfect. We recognize that he is a jealous God and has every right to punish those that break his law. With humble hearts, we confess our sins against his commands and plead for his mercy.

C: (sing) "The Ten Commandments Are The Law"
Verse 1 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

The Ten Commandments are the law
Which Israel heard in holy awe.
In smoke and fire from Sinai

The voice of God shook the sky. Have mercy, Lord!

C: Dear LORD, our God, we confess that we have not always taken others' words and actions in the kindest possible way. We have not defended the reputation of others the way that we should. We have told lies, betrayed people's trust, and given others a bad name. For these, and for all our sins we do not deserve to be called your children. But trusting in Jesus, who kept your commands perfectly in our place, we pray: Have mercy, Lord!

C: (sing) "The Ten Commandments Are The Law"
Verses 9, 11 & 12 *Christian Worship Hymn 285*

"Bear no false witness nor defame
Your neighbor and destroy his name,
But view him in the kindest way;
Speak truth in all that you say." Have mercy, Lord!

Continued on next page

God gave these laws to show therein,
O child of man, your life of sin,
And help you rightly to perceive
How unto God you should live. Have mercy, Lord!

Our works cannot salvation gain;
They merit only endless pain.
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we fly,
Our mediator on high. Have mercy, Lord!

M: Not only does the Lord threaten to punish those that disobey his commands, he also promises to show love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and mercy. For the sake of Jesus, who obeyed every law of God perfectly in our place, God forgives our sins and does not count our sin against us. As Moses had the privilege of proclaiming God's mercy to Israel, I proclaim, as God's servant, that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* **AMEN.**

M: In the peace of this full and free forgiveness, let us praise the LORD!

Song of Praise "Jesus Sinners Does Receive"
Verses 6 & 7 *Christian Worship Hymn 304*

Oh, how blest is it to know, Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow By your blood and bitter passion, For these words I do believe Jesus sinners does receive.	Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven. And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven. Dying, still to him I cleave Jesus sinners does receive.
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LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Christian Worship page 44

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: *(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Though I May Speak With Bravest Fire"
Christian Worship Hymn 498

Though I may speak with bravest fire
And have the gift to all inspire
And have not love, my words are vain --
As sounding brass -- and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess
And, striving so, my love profess
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come; our hearts control.
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed;
By this we worship and are freed.

Statement of Belief THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT w/“What does this mean?”

C: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

M: What does God say about all these commandments?

C: He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations who love me and keep my commandments.”

M: What does this mean?

C: God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust him and gladly obey what he commands.

BE SEATED

Friendship Registers

Offering

Prayer of the Church

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord of all, as we seek to protect your name and not bring it offense, so empower us to speak well of all and put the best construction on everything. Let our tongues be used to build up others instead of tearing them down. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior,

C: (spoken) AMEN.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON
JAMES 3:1-12

“The tongue is a dangerous weapon when used improperly, a blessing when tamed.”

1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 2 *Christian Worship* page 65

Refrain: *Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
Great are the works of the Lord.

Why do the nations `conspire
and the peoples `plot in vain?*

*Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, `saying,*
“I have installed my King on Zion, my `holy
hill.*

*The kings of the earth take their stand and the
rulers gather together a`gainst the Lord*
and against his A`nointed One.*

I will proclaim the decree `of the Lord:
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your `Father.”*

Refrain

The One enthroned in `heaven laughs;
the Lord `scoffs at them.*

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen***

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

MATTHEW 12:1-8

“When accused by the Pharisees, Jesus spoke up and defended the reputation of his disciples.”

1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."

3 He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple desecrate the day and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Hymn “We Are Your People”
Christian Worship Hymn 526

We are your people; Lord, by your grace
You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors,
Of ev'ry nation and race.

How can we demonstrate Your love and care?
Speaking or list'ning? Battling or serving?
Help us to know when and where.

Called to portray you, Help us to live
Closer than neighbors, Open to strangers,
Able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, Help us to see
In all life's changing Where you are leading,
Where our best efforts should be.

Joined in community, Breaking your bread,
May we discover Gifts in each other,
Willing to lead and be led.

Lord as we minister In diff'rent ways,
May all we're doing Show that you're living,
Meeting your love with our praise.

8TH COMMANDMENT:

“PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBOR’S NAME!”

2 Samuel 15:1-12