

Catechesis Minute

The 8th Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Today, I want to draw your attention to the Question: *What does God require of us in the Eighth Commandment?* and answer C: *We should put the best meaning on everything, that is, we should explain our neighbor's actions in the best possible way.* This is probably the most difficult Commandment for us to keep of the Second Table of Commandments. How many times, when someone has not come through for us, we put the worst spin on it? "I knew I never should have trusted him. He's too unreliable." That's just our fallen nature, to see the worst in people. That's why it's so hard for us to get it right.

But God has an answer: *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).* In short, love puts up with everything and keeps on loving. Of course, the apostle isn't just talking about any love here. He's talking about agape, God's love. That selfless, sacrificial love that only comes from God. That's how He can put up with us.

If we operate on His love, through His Word, we can share that love with our neighbors and put the best spin on everything because we see them with God's eyes. After all, as Peter says in the 4th chapter of his first epistle: *Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).*