

THE CHURCH CATECHISM EX- PLAINED FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

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CHAPTER V.

THE COMMANDMENTS —(Continued)— DUTY TO OUR NEIGHBOR.

FIFTH Commandment. The last six commandments teach us our duty to our neighbor. By our neighbor we mean all mankind. We are to show love towards all people, and treat them as we would like them to treat us. The fifth commandment tells us of our duty to our father and mother. I think I do not need to tell you we ought to love our parents. When we remember how much they did for us while we were little and helpless, and how they have cared for us all our lives we cannot help loving them. But we must do more than this; we must honor them; that is, feel for them such love as will make us obey them in all things. We are to love, honor and succour them. To succour means to help. When they are in trouble we must do all in our power to help and comfort them. There lived a child once who was a pattern of obedience for all children,—the holy child Jesus, The Son of God! He was content to obey His earthly parents always. Ought we not then to try to be like Him? Even if a child have parents who are not good, he must try to do his duty to them, and obey them in everything that is right; he must be careful to hide their faults from others, and do all that he can to keep them from doing wrong. But the fifth commandment teaches our duty to more than our parents. We are to honor and obey the Queen and all that are put in authority under her. This is our duty to the ruler of our country, and those who are put in authority under her are all those to whom the Queen gives power to rule in her name, such as Governors, Judges, Magistrates, etc. Our duty to them is the same as to the Queen; to honor and obey them. Whom else are we to obey? All those under whose care we are placed. Our teachers, and our spiritual pastors and masters, that is, those who teach us about our souls, such as our Sunday school teachers and our clergymen. All who are placed over us we must honor and obey. We have a promise in this commandment that if we keep it our days will be long in the land which God gives us. This seems to mean that if we obey this law our lives here on earth will be longer and happier, and we are certain that the life in the Kingdom of Heaven will last forever.

Sixth commandment. "Thou shalt do no murder." You know what we mean when we speak of a murder. Anyone who kills another is called a murderer. We cannot help feeling what a dreadful sin this is. That any person should dare to take the life of one whom God has made seems

strange to us. And yet how often this is done! In our land we have a law that a man who kills another shall be punished by death, unless it can be proved that he did not mean to do so. Will not a murderer too be punished in the next life? He certainly will, unless he becomes truly sorry for his sin and gets God's forgiveness for Jesus' sake. The blood of Jesus can wash away the greatest sin. The worst sinner may be saved if he will only repent, and trust in the Saviour. Why is it that men are led into this dreadful crime? Let me tell you one reason. Too often it is because they are angry with one another, and grow to hate each other. You have read how Cain killed his brother Abel. He was angry with Abel and this was what his anger led him to. In the Bible we are told that whoever hates his brother is a murderer. Ah! then, I fear there are many murderers who do not mean to be so. My little ones, do we not often get angry with others, and have bitter feelings in our hearts? Oh! how sad to think we must often break this commandment! Now we can feel how much we need our Saviour! How blessed a thing it is to have Him to go to for pardon! By the help of the Holy Spirit we must drive unkind thoughts out of our hearts. You know the hymn in which these verses are:

"When deep within our swelling hearts
The thoughts of pride and anger rise,
When bitter words are on our tongues,
And tears of passion in our eyes;

Then we may stay the angry blow,
Then we may check the hasty word,
Give gentle answers back again
And fight a battle for our Lord."

As the catechism tells us, "we must bear no malice or hatred in our hearts." There is a verse in the Bible which says, "Be ye kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." This is what we must do. To hate others will lead us to hurt them in some way, and we are to "hurt nobody by word nor deed." When we dislike others we almost always speak some evil of them, and that is hurting them by word; when our feelings lead us further and we do them some injury, that is hurting them by deed.

Seventh commandment. This teaches us that we must be pure in all that we do; in our thoughts, words and deeds. Make a rule never to think things you would feel ashamed to have anyone know of. Perhaps it is harder to be pure in thought, than in word or deed, because we feel that we have our thoughts to ourselves; we feel that no person can tell what is passing in our minds; but we must not forget that God knows all the thoughts of our hearts, and can we think things we are ashamed to have our friends know when we are sure they are not hidden from God? Who is it puts good thoughts in our minds? The Holy Spirit; and if we ask Him He will help us to drive away all evil ones. We are told in the Bible that our bodies are the temples of the Holy