

THE CHURCH CATECHISM EXPLAINED FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

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CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.)



HERE are many ways of being dishonest; such as cheating when we make a bargain, not paying our debts, making a person pay more than a thing is worth, or being idle when we are paid for working.

You may think this is being very particular, but we are told again in "My Duty to my Neighbor," to be true and just in all our dealings, and remember that this is part of the promise made for you in your baptism, that you should keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of your life. Why is it that people are tempted to steal? Very often it is because they are too fond of money, and wish to get it; and sometimes because they are not satisfied with what they have, and are always wishing for what belongs to someone else; and at other times it is when people are in great want, and steal what they cannot do without. Such cases are very sad, but they are stealing as well as the others.

If we have taken anything which does not belong to us, we must not only repent of our sin, but we must give back what we have taken; or if we are not able to do that we must do all we can to make up for it.

Ninth commandment. To bear false witness against others is to say what is not true about them. This commandment shows us that we must take particular care of the way in which we allow ourselves to speak. As it says in "My duty to my neighbor," "to keep my tongue from evil speaking, lying and slandering." This speaks of our tongues as though they were hard to manage. And, indeed, it is so; for it is so easy to say things that we ought not, that we need to be on our guard all the time. St. James tells us that no man can tame the tongue; it is full of poison, and we can understand how this is when we think of all the mischief that we may do by allowing ourselves to talk as we ought not.

I must try and make you understand what a dreadful sin lying is. In the Bible we are told that. There is a verse which says that "lying lips are an abomination to the Lord; but they who deal truly are His delight." And in another place it says, "All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." Of course, this means hell. Then you must have read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, who were struck dead for lying. These things ought to make us fear to tell a lie.

If we do something wrong and tell a lie to hide it we are sure to be found out, and then no one will like to trust us again. There is another way of being very untruthful which many think very

little of. Sometimes in telling a story several times people get into the habit of making little changes in it, or adding a little to it to make it sound better, until it soon becomes quite another story. Much trouble is often made this way just because they are careless in speaking the truth.

Slandering is speaking of any one in such a way as to do them harm, saying things of them which will lead others to believe what is not true. This is too common a fault, and it is very easy to fall into it. Often we are tempted to say unkind things of others, not because we wish them any harm but just to agree with someone else, and we have not courage to speak as we ought. How often a few words of ours will hurt or help a person! And then again we often gossip and make mischief just for the love of talking. We must ever be on the watch against these faults, and pray for the help of the Holy Spirit. This is a little prayer: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

Tenth commandment. To covet means to wish for, and this commandment tells us we are not to wish for anything which belongs to another. If we are always wishing for things that are not ours, we may soon be tempted to steal them, or if we do not do that, we will make ourselves miserable, and all around us, by our discontent. Those people who are contented with what they have, even if it is ever so little are much happier than those who have everything they need, but yet are not satisfied. Perhaps there is nothing more trying to everyone than a person who is always complaining. No Christian ought to feel this way, for if we remember how much we have to thank God for, we will not mind if we do not have everything as we would like it. It is our parts who bear the Saviour's name, to be always bright and happy, trusting our affairs in the hands of our Heavenly Father without any fear. One of the most common ways of breaking this commandment is wishing for money. Can you think of any one who loved money so much that it led him into a great sin? There was Judas, the disciple who betrayed the Lord Jesus. He was always longing for money. The Bible tells us he carried the bag and was a thief. His love for money led him to steal and to do what was even worse; to get a few pieces of silver he was willing to give up his Master to wicked men to be put to death. Why was it that Judas did such a wicked thing? It was not that he did not love the Lord, but because he loved money better. You see, then what sins we may be drawn into, by not being satisfied with what God has given us. We are not only to keep from coveting, but we are to do our duty in whatever place it has pleased God to put us.

(To be continued.)

Of the 600,000,000 of women now living, 80,000,000 are confined in zenanas and harems; 21,000,000 of these are widows.