

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

Law/Gospel

God wants me to speak well of my neighbor and defend him just as Jonathan spoke well of David and tried to protect him from Saul's anger. Because of my sinfulness, I often fail to do this. **Jesus always spoke the truth, even when doing so created inconvenience and danger in His life. He blessed people with the Good News of the kingdom of God, cast out demons with His powerful word, and having suffered and died for my sins, now advocates on my behalf in heaven.**

Take-Home Point

God commands that I speak well of others.

Bible Words

[Speak] the truth in love.
Ephesians 4:15

Prayer

Holy Spirit, bless our words and actions so that we may show Jesus' love in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1–5; 19:1–7

David and Jonathan met at the battlefield when David defeated the giant Goliath. At least ten years older, Jonathan had already proven himself on the battlefield. That day, Jonathan saw a man who loved and served the Lord as he did. (See their shared faith in 1 Samuel 20:42.)

As Saul's oldest son and probable next king, Jonathan might have feared David. Instead, he made a covenant with David and gave him his royal robes, armor, and weapons. With these actions, Jonathan acknowledged David as the next king, and introduced him to the royal life and wealth Saul promised to the man who killed Goliath.

Jonathan and David loved and respected each other. Their friendship withstood all enemies, even Jonathan's father, Saul. Such profound love arises from only one place: the heart of God. We love the Lord and others because God first loves us and gave His Son for us (1 John 4:9, 19).

King Saul grew jealous of David, despised him, lied to him, and tried to kill him in a multitude of ways. We sinners often turn God's good gift of speech into a tool for evil. We speak negatively and spitefully, rehearse hurtful encounters, and speak in sharp tones, sarcastic remarks, or unfair criticisms. Relationships suffer from abusive language and speech. Gossip, lies, and false accusations destroy self-esteem and reputations. Instead, we should use speech to edify, encourage, and bless others.

Only Jesus Christ did this without error. Jesus always used His words in obedience to the Father and for our benefit. Even as He died on a cross of torture, Jesus spoke a prayer of forgiveness to His Father in heaven on behalf of those who crucified Him. Jesus continues to plead for us at the right hand of His heavenly Father as our faithful Advocate.

From the Catechism

The Eighth 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.

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