

# New City Catechism: Question 11

**Question:** What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

**Answer:** Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

## Romans 13:9

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. These three commandments (and the 9<sup>th</sup>) are generally seen as the most straightforward, but the answer to Q11 expands the parameters of the commandments significantly. Which commandment in the answer to Q11 stands out to you? Why?
- II. How do we place ourselves in positive situations to fulfill these commandments (ie. avoiding sexual temptation or an opportunity to steal)?
- III. At the root of these commandments is a prohibition against selfishness. How can we actively combat even an inch of a selfish mindset to creep into our thinking?
- IV. The addition of "nor withhold any good . . ." provides a very comprehensive idea of stealing. How do we "withhold good"?

