

The Way of Justice and Truth

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Chapter 25.

❖ The Seventh Commandment tells us not to steal. We should respect others by looking at their possessions as their gifts from God. The Tenth Commandment tells us not to desire what belongs to others. The Seventh and Tenth Commandments call for respect of property.

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❖ The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers a much broader understanding of violating the Seventh Commandment. It includes work done poorly, tax evasion, forgery, and other forms of dishonesty.

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❖ When people steal, they must restore their integrity by making restitution. This means to replace what was taken or to repair what was damaged.

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❖ Performing acts of penance is a way of taking responsibility for a wrong that we have done. It reestablishes the balance and harmony broken by sin. The act of penance also brings about satisfaction for sins committed.

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❖ The Eighth Commandment tells us to be truthful in word and action and to protect reputations.

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❖ Calumny, or slander, is accusing a person of a wrongdoing when you know he or she is innocent.

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❖ All lies go against the Eighth Commandment. “White lies” are still lies. You must speak the truth out of respect for other people as a habit.

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❖ Hypocrisy is lying through actions. Some people are phony because they try to appear to be what they are not.

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❖ To conceal the truth can be as dangerous as lying. It may be necessary to reveal someone’s wrongdoing for the sake of the common good.

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❖ Talking about the faults and misdeeds of others is the sin of detraction. Like calumny, it is wrong because it ruins another’s name.

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