

Chapter 8

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *How are the Johannine symbols of light and darkness connected to the Eighth Commandment?*

In his writings, John explains how Jesus, as the “light of the world” (8:12), is connected to truth. John tells us that we prefer the darkness when we seek to conceal our sinful actions and thoughts. We enjoy God’s light when we seek to live in ways consistent with his truth. John also tells us that we lie if we claim to be in communion with God but continue to “walk in darkness” (or sin) (1 John 1:6).

2. *What kind of truth should have the highest priority in a Christian’s life? How can you witness to this truth?*

We should give the highest priority to the truth the Father revealed for our salvation, which is that God sent his Son to live among us, suffer, die, and rise again so that he could save us from sin and death. (The students may provide personal examples of how they can and do witness to this truth, including acts of charity, the way they treat others, participation in the sacraments, and other suitable responses.)

3. *Explain how honesty is related to trust and integrity.*

Honesty builds personal integrity, and integrity builds trust, which is necessary in any healthy relationship. We must be truthful in all things if we are to be worthy of the trust of another. Conversely, we cannot be dishonest or deceitful and expect to gain or keep someone’s trust.

4. *What is reparation?*

Reparation means “making amends for something one did wrong that caused physical, emotional, or material harm to another person.” We have a moral obligation to make amends for sins against the truth. This duty binds our conscience, which means we are not free from responsibility until we make the best effort we can to repair the damage we have caused. If we cannot directly make amends to the one we have harmed, we should do some other act of charity.

5. *Name and explain three sins against a person’s reputation.*

Three sins against a person’s reputation are detraction (or gossip), calumny (or slander), and rash judgment. Detraction means to unnecessarily reveal something about another person that may be true but harms their reputation—it detracts from someone’s good name. Calumny ruins the reputation of another by lying or spreading rumors. Finally, rash judgment happens when we assume the worst about something a person says or does, without knowing the full context.

6. *Is it ever inappropriate to reveal the truth, and if so, when?*

In situations requiring confidentiality, it can be inappropriate for us to reveal the truth. For example, we are not required to tell the truth to someone who will use it to harm someone else. Professional confidentiality is also required of doctors, counselors, religious leaders, public officials, and others, except in serious cases when withholding the truth will cause serious harm. And in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the seal of confession means the priest can never tell anyone what he has heard.



7. *What responsibility do social media have for safeguarding the truth?*

Media sources have a responsibility to protect and promote the common good. They should also provide truth, moral entertainment, and information that promotes human freedom and calls society to act justly. The media must be held responsible for presenting the truth in a balanced, fair, and disciplined way.

8. *Describe three ways you can be responsible in your use of media.*

Evaluate the moral message of songs, television shows, movies, books, and games, and media to determine if they uphold or undermine the values of God's moral law. Seek reliable sources to evaluate the moral messages in media and to help us choose which media to use. If a particular artist, TV series, or radio station consistently promotes values and actions that are contrary to God's moral law, stop watching or listening. Consider contacting the organization or person in charge of the media source and respectfully let them know your concern.

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