

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

November 2025

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ!

I've been dwelling on the meaning of the 8th commandment as quoted from our Luther's Catechism. "We should fear and love God that we may not belie, betray, slander, nor defame our neighbor; but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on all he does."

How often does this loving instruction go ignored in our own hearts? Possibly not on purpose, or with malicious intent, but often I at least, will think to myself, "does this person really mean it when they say such and such? Or are they doing that to be nice?" Or was that simple comment hiding a sinister motive? Or if someone wrongs me, even if it's a small thing, do we assign an assumed motive to their misdeed? Perhaps it was of no ill intent at all and a simple oversight that you didn't get an invite to such and such, or receive a thank you from this or that person. Can we try in our own lives to "excuse them, speak well of them and put the best construction on all they do?"

Imagine the possibilities, how wonderful the community and fellowship if we all asked for the strength and Grace to apply this simple direction to our thoughts. To ask God for a forgiving heart, one that loves and lives by His Spirit! May God grant us His mercy, and His grace to treat our brothers and sister as we would want them to treat us!

God's Peace,
Tyson Mattila