
Faithful Politics: Week 10

**YOU SHALL NOT BEAR
FALSE WITNESS**

Two vertical lines extend downwards from the bottom horizontal line, one on the left and one on the right.

WHAT DOES THE NINTH COMMANDMENT HAVE TO DO WITH OUR POLITICS?

“You shall not bear false witness against your
neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20)



BREAKOUT ROOMS

- **What are 2-3 things that this commandment tells us *not* to do?**
 - **What are 2-3 things that this commandment *requires* from us?**
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NOT JUST ABOUT NOT LYING

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- **Certainly has to do with the things we say.**
 - **But it also has implications for how we think and listen. How do we respond to claims made about other people? Especially ones that are speculative or damaging.**
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“THE SIN OF FALSE WITNESS IS THAT
OF DISTORTING THE FACTS IN SUCH
A WAY TO HARM ONE’S NEIGHBOR.”

John Frame

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- **This language comes from the world of legal testimony.**
 - **In many ways, “false witness” is a form of theft: theft of truth... theft of reputation... even theft of reality, as we distort certain facts in order to achieve the things we want.**
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TWO MAJOR OBLIGATIONS:

- 1) PROMOTING TRUTH**
- 2) RESISTING FALSEHOOD**

**WHAT DOES THIS LOOK
LIKE?**

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 144: What are the duties required in the ninth commandment?

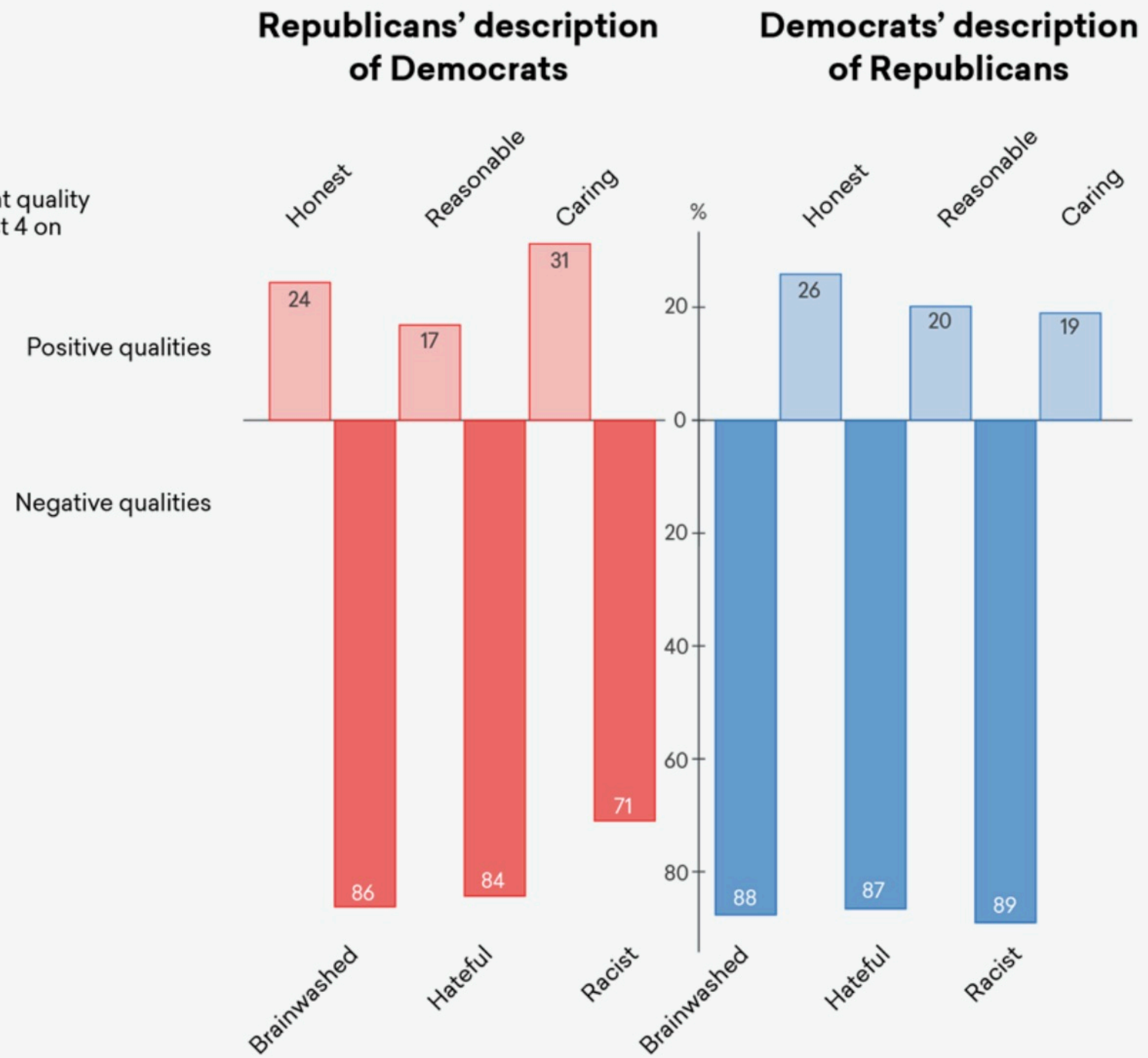
A. The duties required in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own; appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbors; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocency; a ready receiving of a good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging talebearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; studying and practicing of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

“What does it mean to have an “unwillingness to admit of an evil report” concerning our political opponents? It doesn’t mean being gullible. It doesn’t mean rejecting the idea that our opponents can do grievous, scandalous things. It means addressing claims of wrongdoing with charitable skepticism—and the wilder the claim, the greater the skepticism. Our moral posture should deter slander.”

David French

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

% who said that quality applies (at least 4 on 7-point scale)



Source: More in Common (2019)

“I AM THE WAY, **AND THE TRUTH,**
AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO
THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

Jesus (John 14:6)

**HOW CAN WE LEARN TO
DO THIS?**

BREAKOUT ROOMS

- **Read and discuss Keller's "Gospel Polemics"**
 - **Which of these practices do you find most challenging, and why?**
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