

EXODUS 20:13 YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

We come to the sixth commandment which is made up of two Hebrew words, “No murder.” Every culture throughout the history of mankind has universally condemned murder. Most people would say murder is the worst act that anyone can do. It is the most heinous of all crimes. If one murders another, that murderer is capable of doing anything else that would be gross sin. He has to be the worst of all creatures, people will say. So in one sense, whether one believes in God or not, one would agree with His law at least at this point.

As we have looked at the first five commandments, we have learned that there is much more to each command than appears at the surface. At first look, we think we are ok, as we seem to keep the commandments. But as we look into the mirror intently, we find that we have broken all five of the commandments and are convicted and found guilty. So you would think, as we are face to face with the command of, do not murder, that we would be ok on this one. That would be wrong. We will see again that we have failed miserably in following the commandments. We need grace and mercy. We are guilty, as all the commands are linked together and when we break one, we break them all. We fall short and are imperfect. But, we thank the Lord for Christ who fulfills the law and by the Holy Spirit, gives us the power to improve in living out the law of love. That is what the decalogue is about. It is loving God and loving our neighbor. If we abide by the first table, we would not want to do anything to hurt our neighbor, which deals with the second table. We desire to promote the well-being of others as we seek to love God.

Let’s now take a look to see what God has for us in this sixth commandment that can shape our hearts. This is a clear teaching of how we must relate to each other if we are to glorify God.

1. THE COMMAND

A. WHAT IT FORBIDS

How is this commandment broken?

1. Homicide

Murder is a personal attack upon the dignity of the Creator.

The word murder, is to kill unauthorized or with malice.

This one doesn’t seem to have the same bite to us as the other commands do. How many murderers do you know?

There probably aren’t too many of us who personally know any, so it seems distant to us. But yet this is very much addressed to us.

Murder in this country is at an all time high and getting worse. Even in our own little surroundings, it is not surprising to us to hear of a murder. We are not shocked

much anymore as we have become somewhat calloused to such a heinous sin.

Alistair Begg who is from Scotland, said that in 1963 in his home country, there were two murders. That was all for a whole year. In our present time in Chicago, there are 18 murders a week ! Why are there so many murders?

Let us look at how murder began.

Genesis 4:8-15, 4:23-24, Exodus 21:12-25

What is the problem? The issue is a *personal God*. God exists and created each and everything. He gives meaning to His creation. God made man in His image. He reveals to man and makes a pathway for man to understand Him.

There is such a distinction between the animals that God created, and man. Man was highest of all creation, a little lower than the angels, right now.

The problem though, is that man does not want to recognize Him and doesn't want Him to have all the authority, although He is the very one who created man. If he is Lord and God, the Creator, then we all owe allegiance to Him and are to obey what He commands. But this is where the problem lies. Man has *hostility* to God. Man cannot choose to believe this personal God. Man, today, does not know where he came from, who he is, and where he is going. This is what separates us from them. We *do know* where we came from, who we are, and where we are going. That is our world view. Our world view and their world view are completely at odds. We believe in a personal God who is Creator. The worldview in this nation has evolved into a mishmash of rugged individualism, that is western thought, and pantheism, which is eastern thought. They have a wrong view of God and a wrong view of man. They believe in an impersonal being and they came from nowhere, and are no one and are going no place. Therefore, life really has no meaning. If God is not personal and there is no purpose for man, man can do what he wants, so he breaks the law, even the one that even pagans pay attention to, the sixth commandment. The absurdity of life without God leads to tragic destruction. Murder is one of the sad results when one breaks the link of the Creator and His creation. What an affront to God when one takes a life that God created. Lost mankind needs to see there are principles to build upon. We need to dismantle their lofty speculations and invade with the truth. We can offer hope by the truth of our worldview which is the Gospel. It gives life to the dead.

2. Genocide and "mega-death"

In the 20th century murder was accomplished on a massive scale. Four human beings killed 175 million people. They were Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, and MaoTse Tung. We think of the killing fields of

Cambodia, and the slaughters of Rwanda and the Suda. New words were coined such as genocide. This never existed before the 20th century. The depravity of man was manifested like it never had before, at least in numbers.

3. Suicide

Suicide is selfish and futile. People do not have the right to take themselves away from others. They think they are the masters of their own destinies.

Ezek 18:4, 1 Samuel 2:6

Kavorkian enabled people to kill themselves comfortably. Many of the people he assisted were in their 40's and 50's. They were not in their 80's but still had a lot of years left. This is an accepted alternative to life in our times. Suicide is ever becoming more on the rise, not knowing one certain age, but all ages, including pre-teens. This is so sad. People who commit suicide are hostile to God.

4. Abortion

We all know that it is illegal to kill children, at least for now. But as long as the baby is in the womb, it is a fetus and is open game for whoever doesn't want "it". There have been tens of millions aborted in our nation. 45 million in fact.

But God says that fetus is a human being from the moment of conception.

Psalm 139:13-16 God is the one who gives life and He knows very well who has life. He knows every part of us.

Those involved with abortions are hostile to God.

The abortion debate that goes on in this country is about slogans on signs and bumper stickers. But the debate should be on principles. The principles are the foundation. Our world view has to dialog with the pro-choice people. There is a bumper sticker that says--- pro-family, pro kids, pro choice. Why? Their view of the world is what underpins their thinking. Their view of the world is based upon their opinions and not God's truth. We need to dismantle their thoughts and offer them hope. We need to engage, not yell and shout. We need to tell the truth of our world view. Science and technology actually are witnesses against abortion. They have camera and video footage of the baby in the womb. How ironic.

B. IT DOESN'T FORBID ALL KILLING

Is there such a thing as God authorized killing? Some people would say this commandment forbids any kind of killing, whether it be man or animals. Is it still biblically correct to do capital punishment? According to God's Word it is.

1. Capital punishment

Capital punishment is ordered by God to make the severity of murder clear and understood.

Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12, Romans 13:4

2. War

God had commanded His own people to war against evil nations.

Exodus 17:14, 1 Samuel 15:3

Sometimes war becomes the only option that will actually save more lives than it takes.

3. Self-defense

2. THE EXTENSION OF THE COMMAND

A. JESUS' COMMENT ON THE 6TH COMMAND

There is no distance between us and this commandment, and Jesus helps us to understand this. How difficult it is to have our hands clean of murder even though we think we are perfectly innocent. There is a hidden murder.

Matthew 5:21-22

Being angry with a brother is equal to murder.

Our heart is a murderous heart. Hatred and anger are always way too close to us. The heart is the issue here. This gets to the bottom of all this. One can go from irritation to anger to hatred to murder.

Just because you haven't physically murdered doesn't mean you are not guilty.

That guy is a total emptyhead, a dog brain, an idiot, a nobody, a fool, moron.

Our hearts know murder. We think ill of someone. (Raca) If we call people

Idiots and wish they die, we are just as guilty as someone who had an

abortion. Sin is sin. We put people down. We play the game of hurtful words.

We are guilty, even though we think we are better than the murderer.

B. ATTITUDES

One might say; "Well I have never had an abortion or killed anybody.

Have you ever had a murderous thought? Have you ever been offended by someone and thought it would be good if they died?

So it is not just the act of murder, but also thoughts and hateful attitudes

1 John 3:15, Matthew 18:6-7

We have bad thoughts, animosity, malice, hostility. We fall into gossip. That kills people. Our thoughts and attitudes are as foul as murder.

We are not to slander or assassinate others, or to talk about them behind their back. How simple it is to fall into breaking this commandment.

C. WHO KILLED CHRIST?

Acts 2:23, 3:14-15, Romans 5:8,10

Even though the Jews killed Christ and the Romans killed Christ and Judas

killed Him, we all killed Him in one sense. In another this was the plan of

God to have Jesus crucified. Because of our sin, Christ took it from us at

the cross, and instead of us getting our judgment Christ took our punishment.

If we have spoken sarcastically of someone, or belittled them, or become

angry at someone, it is murder, whether the act is done or not.

3. THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

This is the positive side of it all. We are to do the opposite of murder.

A. VALUE AND PRESERVE LIFE

We are to do everything to preserve our own lives and the lives of everyone.

We are not to neglect our own health and lives.

We are to value the sanctity of life. We are to oppose abortion and euthanasia.

B. THE POINT IS LOVE

Rom 13:9-10

The whole law is about the love of God. We are to speak kind words and

Be gracious to each other. We are to esteem others more than ourselves.

C. LAYING DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OTHERS

1 John 3:16

When we give up ourselves for others, we have just reversed the curse and

have done the opposite of murder. We should always have the desire for

the well-being of others.

We might be saying; at least this is one commandment I thought I kept. I'm really in trouble now. The law is doing it's purpose when we learn that we are not accepted on our goodness, but purely by God's grace.

This 6th commandment brings guilt to us all. There is only one remedy. When we see that we are guilty of breaking the whole law, we are at a point to beg for mercy. Then is when we see our need and how it can be met through Christ.

The sixth commandment points us to reverence life itself because of the Creator. It also points us to the need, our desperate need, for the grace and mercy of God shown us in Jesus Christ. He bore in Himself the malice, and the hatred and the murderous intention of humanity, and gave His life for sinners, shedding His blood for the remission of our sins. Al Mohler