

Value Life

Why should we value human life in all its stages and states? Pastor Dan explains:

At risk of asking an obvious question, why is murder—why is the taking of an innocent life—so wrong? Why does God prohibit it? Well, there's a reason it's just something we intuitively know deep down to be wrong. And there's a reason for the profound sadness we feel when we see a news story about a senseless killing. The reason we know and think and feel all this goes back to what the Bible has to say about who we are as people. Genesis chapter 9, verse 6 says:

Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God has God made mankind.

The first half of this verse touches on the “eye for an eye, life for a life” justice system that was part of the Old Covenant. But what I want us to focus on is what it says here in the second half of the verse “For in the image of God has God made mankind.” The heart of why murder is so wrong has to do with the nature of who we are. As people, we are created in the image of God. We are His image-bearers. All of us. From the faithful church attender to the death row inmate, from Pope Francis to the head of ISIS—every human being is created in the image of God in a special and unique way that is different from every other creature that inhabits this earth. And so because of this reality about the image of God being central to the nature of mankind, we as people possess an inherent, God-given worth.

Even though a free-market economy might determine our value on the basis of “what we do” and “how well we do it,” from God's perspective, we have value simply by virtue of being a man, woman, boy, girl. So whether it's someone you highly respect, or it's someone you greatly disdain, people matter because they are created in the image of God. That's why the Lord says: “You shall not murder.”

HATE is a four-letter word. Don't allow your kids to say things like, “I hate you!” or “I hate her!” More importantly, help them deal with hurt and anger by pouring their heart out to you and to God. Share verses like Psalm 62:5-8, Philip-
pians 4:6-9, and Matthew 5:21-26 with them. Encourage them to resolve disagree-
ments and conflicts in healthy ways, and celebrate their successes when they do.
You'll go a long way in investing in their joy, peace, and success in relationships!

People Matter
the TEN series

Your Worth vs. My Way

Murder is just the extreme expression of anger toward someone who didn't give me what I wanted from them. Pastor Dan

1. Think of the last time you were angry with someone. How did you feel inside and what did you think? What did you say or do?
2. What would you like to have said or done *if you knew no one would ever find out*?
3. Read the Scriptures below. How is anger expressed in these verses? What is the connection between these expressions of anger and devaluing human life?
 - Genesis 4:1-8—
 - Exodus 21:12-19—
 - Matthew 5:21-22—
 - Galatians 5:13-15—
4. What practical ways to avoid destructive anger does God give us in Matthew 5:23-26 and Ephesians 4:26-32? Which ones could especially help you when another person hurts or offends you?

First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.
Matthew 5:24
5. Is killing *always* murder? How should we think about suicide, “just war,” abortion, mercy-killing, and capital punishment in light of the sixth commandment? What does the Bible teach?
6. What can we do to influence others on these important moral issues? How do we guard against getting angry and devaluing people who disagree with us?

You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13