

The Sixth Commandment

Read: Exodus 20:13

Main idea: All of humanity was created by God in His image for the purpose of bringing Him glory and fulfilling His purpose and He has entrusted us with the responsibility of preserving and protecting all human life.

Key Verses: “You shall not murder.” (20:13 ESV)

Key Principles:

- Obeying this command is about a lot more than just not murdering someone else.
- The core of this commandment has to do with valuing the lives of others and recognizing that everyone is precious and made in God’s image.
- There is something unique in mankind that reflects God’s glory in a way that nothing else in creation can.
- When you think of men and women as anything less than the image of God, you devalue life.
- Murder happens because a person values something, someone or some idea more than they value the life of the person that they take.
- Self-defense, capital punishment and just war is not included in the commandment not to murder because this command deals with the taking of innocent life.
- Jesus revealed to us that our desires about a person are just as important to God as our actions towards that person.

Discussion:

1. What is the difference between killing and murder? Why is that distinction significant for us to understand this commandment?
2. Where does human life receive its value? Does the fact that every human is made in the image of God impact this truth? Why?
3. Are there any people that you think of as more of a “group,” a group that you don’t particularly like, rather than as individuals made in the image of God? How does this dehumanize a person?
4. If all human life is to be valued, how can we reconcile the taking of any human life for any reason? Does the fact that murder is the taking of “innocent” life impact that? What is the significance of Genesis 9:6 to this topic?
5. In what ways do we break this commandment even when we don’t actually take someone’s life? Discuss anger, hate, neglect and keeping the gospel from others?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would remember that every person is created in the image of God.
- Pray:
 - That we would value human life in the same way that the Creator does.
 - That we would preserve and protect all human life in every stage of life.
 - That we would remember that our desires and emotions are just as important to God as our actions.

VI: The Sanctity of Human Life
Exodus 20:13

Exodus 20:13 - *You shall not murder.*

I. Is there a difference between killing and murder?

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| 1. | God <u>cares</u> for all <u>living</u> things. | Psalm 104:11-30
Matthew 6:26-30 |
| 2. | God gave man permission to <u>harvest plants</u> . | Genesis 1:29-30 |
| 3. | God gave man permission to <u>kill animals</u> . | Genesis 9:3 |
| 4. | God created <u>humans</u> in His <u>image</u> . | Genesis 1:26-27 |

II. What sins are prohibited?

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| 1. | Don't <u>murder</u> . | Genesis 9:6 |
| 2. | Don't <u>hate</u> . | 1 John 3:15 |
| 3. | Don't <u>fight</u> or <u>quarrel</u> . | James 3:9 |
| 4. | Don't seek <u>revenge</u> . | Romans 12:19 |

III. What duties are required?

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| 1. | <u>Preserve Life</u> . | Psalm 82:3-4 |
| 2. | <u>Oppose hatred & murder</u> . | Matthew 5:21-22 |
| 3. | <u>Defend the innocent</u> . | Exodus 23:7 |

NEXT WEEK:
VII: The Sanctity of Faithfulness
Exodus 20:14