

COMMANDMENT NUMBER SIX: THOU SHALT NOT KILL

Exodus 20:13 Deuteronomy 5:17

Introduction: It seems that only God thinks human life is sacred judging from what has been happening in today's times. Killing unborn babies, suicide bombers, drive by killings, high school shootings, murder-suicides, robbery murders and countless other manners of taking human lives. What in the world is happening? Where is respect and obedience to God's commandments? This sixth commandment is the shortest of all the Ten yet it is the strongest of all. God looks upon human life as sacred, after all He started it and every human being is answerable to Him. God says "*Thou shalt do no murder...*" In our country our courts have declared that there are "degrees" of murder (1st degree, 2nd degree, etc.) and therefore the circumstances are considered before sentencing a person to some kind of punishment for taking a human life.

I. WHAT DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT REVEAL?

1. God said that Satan was the first "murderer."
2. Cain committed the first murder in the Old Testament when he killed his brother, Abel.
3. In the days of Noah the punishment for murder was "blood for blood" (*Genesis 9:6*)
4. The Ten Commandments were given in the days of Moses. "Murder" was identified as:
 - Death caused with malice using a deadly weapon.
 - Death caused by a hired killer.
 - Death caused because of a false testimony.
 - Death caused by neglect:
 - Someone's animal killed a person
 - Someone killed by an unsafe house.
 - An innocent bystander killed by others in a public fight.
 - Death of a slave from over punishing.
 - Death because the law was not enforced.

II. WHAT DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT REVEAL?

1. Jesus taught that murder comes from the heart (*Matthew 5:21; 15:19*).
 - It is not only the **act** that is murder, but also the thoughts as well.
 - To wish one dead is murder.
2. John wrote that to hate a person is the same as murder.
3. Paul said that Christians are not to seek revenge or try to avenge.
4. Jesus says instead of murder, the Christian is to love, forgive, take no action but to do good, to leave revenge, retaliation, punishment, and payback to God.

III. WHAT EXACTLY IS "MURDER" IN TODAY'S DEFINITIONS?

1. Homicide: The killing of a person.
2. Suicide: The killing of one's own self.
3. Parricide: The killing of one's parent or parents.

4. Infanticide: The killing of infants and children.
5. Feticide: The killing of the unborn.
6. Murder: Killing someone made in the image of God.

IV. WHAT GOD DOES NOT FORBID TO KILL

1. God does not forbid the killing of animals for food, clothing or other useful purposes.
 - ***"Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat (food) for you."*** God told Noah. (***Genesis 9:3***)
 - Jesus and His disciples ate fish, the prodigal son upon returning ate the fatted calf, and Jesus ate of the Passover lamb.
2. God does not forbid the killing of a thief who breaks into your home. ***"If a thief be found breaking in, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him."*** Exodus 22:2
 - In matters of self defense one has the right to defend him/herself.
3. God does not forbid killing during war. Often God's angels would intercede for God's children and slay many of their enemies. God enabled Samson to do what he did and he killed many enemies.

V. WHY DO PEOPLE COMMIT MURDER?

1. Out of anger, frustration, hurt.
2. Out of greed, selfishness
3. All because the heart is not right with God.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's people are not to commit murder and must recognize the heart's message of murder and stop.
2. God's people are to let God make things right and learn how to forgive and move on.
3. God's people are to keep their hearts true to God and therefore pure.
4. Everyone can get angry, frustrated, selfish and be hurt, all this is human, but murder is not, either mental or physical.
5. Let us look at others as God sees us all, precious, sacred and in His image.