


The 6th Commandment: You Shall Not Murder


Exodus 20:13

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Overview

- The sixth commandment forbids murder
- Humans are created in God's image, so murder is an attack on God who grants life
- God has ordained the death penalty for murder and civil authorities to uphold it
- Vengeance is major cause of murder
- Cain and Abel, the story of the first murder, illustrate the issue



The Sixth Commandment

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



Human life is sacred

■ **Genesis 1:26, 27**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.



The death penalty for murder

■ **Genesis 9:6**

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.



The image of God

■ **James 3:8, 9**

But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;



Blood represents life

■ **Leviticus 17:11**

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”



God ordains a civil system of justice

■ **Numbers 35:14, 15**

You shall give three cities across the Jordan and three cities in the land of Canaan; they are to be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be for refuge for the sons of Israel, and for the alien and for the sojourner among them; that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.



God ordains a civil system of justice

■ **Numbers 35:30, 31**

If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.



God ordains a civil system of justice

■ **Romans 13:3, 4**

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.



Vengeance and heart attitudes

■ **Leviticus 19:16b-18**

. . . you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD. You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.



Cain and Abel

■ **Genesis 4:4, 5**

Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.



Cain and Abel

■ Genesis 4:6, 7

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."



Cain and Abel

■ Genesis 4:8 - 10

Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground."



Cain and Abel

■ Hebrews 11:4 & 12:24

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. . . . and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.



Jacob and Esau

■ **Genesis 27:41**

So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."



Jacob and Esau


■ **Ezekiel 25:12, 13a**

Thus says the Lord God, "Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred grievous guilt, and avenged themselves upon them," therefore thus says the Lord God, "I will also stretch out My hand against Edom"



Applications and Implications


- 1) We need the Lord to cleanse our hearts of hatred and malice toward others
- 2) We need to develop a Christian worldview which includes respect for human life
- 3) We should be good citizens who respect the wellbeing of those around us



1) We need the Lord to cleanse our hearts of hatred and malice toward others

■ **Matthew 5:21, 22**


You have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not commit murder” and “Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, “You good-for-nothing,” shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, “You fool,” shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.



1) We need the Lord to cleanse our hearts of hatred and malice toward others

■ **Colossians 3:8**

But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.



2) We need to develop a Christian worldview which includes respect for human life

- Abortion should be opposed
- Euthanasia should be opposed
- Humans bear God’s image, animals do not
- God did not give animals “rights,” He gave humans responsibility for stewardship
- God told humans to multiply on the earth; that they have is not a sin



3) We should be good citizens who respect the wellbeing of those around us

■ **Romans 12:17, 18**

Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.
Respect what is right in the sight of all men.
If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.



3) We should be good citizens who respect the wellbeing of those around us

■ **Romans 12:19**

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.