

The Ten Commandments.



Word 6: Do not murder. Exodus 20: 13

“You shall not murder” (Ex. 20:13). A person who cares about others, beginning with those in the home, does not want to harm them. This law reveals God’s attitude toward people created in His image. No one has the right to take that life from another (Gen. 9:6). After the Fall in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-24), it was not long before the first murder occurred (Gen. 4:8), as Cain killed his brother Abel.

Murder is described as the unlawful killing of one person by another, especially with premeditated malice.

- 1) Some Bible versions say ‘murder’ others ‘kill’. What is the difference? Why is this interpreted differently? How do you view the two? Your answer may shape your view point later.

- 2) Consider also, Abortion, Euthanasia, Capital- punishment, War (aggression and defence, Crusade, or ‘Just’), Suicide, Man-slaughter, and Sacrifice. Where does Genesis 9:6 fit in with these?

- 3) Matt. 5: 38-42 is often used to support pacifism. Is this what we are taught and live? Why or why not? What are the alternatives?

Many Christians today have high expectations for what their families should be like, and the Bible offers a great deal of help toward building healthy family relationships. But Scripture also helps us keep our expectations realistic by showing us the world’s

first family, which was far from idyllic (Gen. 4:1–16). The murder of Abel is a sobering reminder that a family is made up of sinners who frequently reveal that side of their character.

In the last session we considered that adultery also begins in the mind. Is murder the same, by Gods’ standard? How often do we hear phrases like *‘if that happens, I’ll kill him...’*

In the New Testament, Jesus deepened the Old Testament commands against and laws of retribution for murder by giving it a spiritual dimension. Whoever has anger and hatred against his brother is in danger of God’s judgment (Matt. 5:21). Murder begins in the heart - one’s thoughts and meditations - and proceeds out of the heart (Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:21).

But even murder can be forgiven (Matt. 12:31; Mark 3:28). Before his conversion, Saul of Tarsus launched “threats and murder” (Acts 9:1) against the church. But by the grace of God he was converted and became Paul the apostle, missionary to the Gentiles.

- 4) What is the Biblical value of life?

- 5) Was Jesus killed, murdered or sacrificed, what are the implications of each?

Finally, Christians need have no fear of death: “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The verse continues, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:55–57).

Perhaps you may wish to spend some time in prayer, for those struggling with various difficulties in life.