

Title: Do Not Murder

Passage: Exodus 20:13

Summary:

The Sixth Commandment:

1. Teaches us about God's character
2. Points out our sinfulness.
3. Directs us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. Teaches us how to live freely.

What does the commandment not prohibit?

- Killing of animals
- Self-defense
- Capital punishment
- Just war
- Accidental killings

What does the commandment prohibit?

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Euthanasia
- Abortion

Key Truths:

- God values human life. God is sovereign over human life. He is the One who creates human life and is sovereign when to stop human life. All human life is valuable
- Fourth Commandment means you shall not kill unlawfully.
- God detests the taking of innocent life. God is the judge over all (not only those who have had them, help them, support them, but also those who are silent and do nothing to oppose it)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

All of us, to some extent, are guilty of trespassing this particular commandment.

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Passage:

Exodus 20:13

“You shall not murder.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

The Law is not a ladder by which we are trying to get closer to God but rather a mirror where we see our need for a Savior.

- After 10 commandments, over 610 laws were thereafter given that reflect them.

The Purpose of the Ten Commandments:

1. Teach us about God's character
2. They point out our sinfulness.
3. They direct us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. They teach us how to live freely.

I. THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER

God values human life. God is sovereign over human life.

- He is the One who creates human life and is sovereign when to stop human life.
- All human life is valuable

Meaning

- Fourth Commandment consists of two Greek words.
- Meaning: you shall not kill unlawfully.

What does the commandment not prohibit?

- Killing of animals
- Self-defense
- Capital punishment
- Just war

- Accidental killings

Killing of animals

Genesis 9:3a

Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you.

Self-defense

Exodus 22:2-3

If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

Capital punishment

Genesis 9:5-6

And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

- One of the ways justice is brought is for the government (not individuals) to implement capital punishment.

Just war

- soldiers involved in just warfare to defend peace.

Romans 13:4

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

- Government is the agent to protect lives.

Contrast: But was Jesus a pacifist?

- No. Jesus never commanded Roman centurions to leave their job. Only to sin no more.

Accidental killings

- Cities of refuge were established for those who accidentally killed someone.

Deuteronomy 4:41-42

Then Moses set apart three cities in the east beyond the Jordan, that the manslayer might flee there, anyone who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without being at enmity with him in time past; he may flee to one of these cities and save his life:

What makes these killings lawful?

- The end goal is preservation of life.
 - Self-defense / Just war: keep one or others safe

What does the commandment prohibit?

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Euthanasia
- Abortion

Homicide

- premeditated, thought-through murder of another.

Genesis 4:8

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

- includes those who are accessory or helped in the murder of another

2 Samuel 11:14-15

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."

- Includes loss of life through negligence

Deuteronomy 22:8

"When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.

Suicide

- No Biblical example where God has allowed for one to kill oneself

- No matter how hard or difficult the circumstances, Job never saw it as a righteous option.

Job 2:9-10

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die.” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Euthanasia

- Using drugs whereby one intentionally terminates oneself.
 - Distinction: does not include choosing to stop taking treatment regarding a physical condition.
- Allow God to use your suffering to glorify Him and build others up.

Abortion

- killing of life in the womb.
 - Fetus = in Latin, means baby/little one

Does human life begin at conception? Yes.

Psalms 139:13-15

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

- At the moment of conception, genes from the father and mother are combined.
 - After two weeks, there is a discernible heart beat.
 - After 6 weeks, fingers have formed.
 - After 43 days, brain waves are discernible.
 - After 9 weeks, unique set of fingerprints.

Exodus 21:22-25

“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

- The penalty for harming the unborn child was the same as any life.

- This actually was more severe than any other life (no exception for accidental killing to seek a city of refuge).
- No reference to stages of pregnancy. Any unborn life is of great value.

Luke 1:41-44

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

- Life within Elizabeth was pointed as a baby.
- The unborn child must be given equal dignity and protection as a born child.

What if an unborn child has a defect?

- Wouldn't life be treated the same after birth?

Objection: What about pregnancy from rape or incest?

- While painful, life is still life.
- Would that life be taken after birth? No. As such, every life no matter the circumstances is to be valued.
 - Many examples exist of lives that came about in difficult circumstances who later went on to live fruitful, productive lives.

Objection: What about the freedom to choose for women?

- While individual freedom is important, no one should have unlimited rights to do anything.
 - The law restricts certain behaviors (no driving while intoxicated, no child abuse).
- The moral duty to honor life supersedes the burden to carry a pregnancy to full term.

Objection: I am personally against abortion but support laws that allow abortion.

- To be neutral or supportive of killing of unborn children is unthinkable in the Bible.
- If politicians do not value life within the womb, they will not value life outside the womb.

II. THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT POINTS OUT OUR SINFULNESS.

- Abortion is sin, the sin of murder. God detests the taking of innocent life. God is the judge over all (not only those who have had them, help them, support them, but also those who are silent and do nothing to oppose it)

III. THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT DIRECTS US TO CHRIST AND THE NEED WE HAVE FOR HIM.

- We all have trespassed this commandment and need a Savior from the judgment of our sins, the only one is Jesus.

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

IV. THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT TEACHES US TO LIVE FREELY.

God forgives entirely

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God heals wholly

Luke 7:50

And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

God restores you completely

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.