

February 21, 2010

THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN LIFE
EXODUS 20:13 (MURDER)

You may think, of all the commandments, this one does not apply to you. As a way of introduction, let's think what is not forbidden by this commandment.

1. The Lord is not forbidding the slaying of animals (Exodus 20:24).
2. The Bible does not prohibit capital punishment (Exodus 21:12 – the law, and Genesis 9:6 – before the law).
3. The Bible does not forbid the killing of another person in order to protect one's life and loved ones (Exodus 22:2-3). All murder is killing, but not all killing is murder. There are three kinds of murder.

I. THERE IS INTENTIONAL MURDER.

- A. By the crime of homicide – you may escape the justice of man, but you will not escape the justice of God (Galatians 6:7).
- B. By the crime of suicide – no one has the right to take his/her own life, because life belongs to God. We are not to commit suicide even in constant pain, in the severest trouble, or because of an incurable disease. God alone is wise enough, good enough, or strong enough to handle these problems. I Corinthians 10:13 is God's way out of trouble.
- C. By the crime of infanticide or abortion. This is slaughter with government approval.

II. THERE IS INDIRECT MURDER. We can cause people to lose their lives or shorten their lives by things we do.

- A. There is murder by cruelty – you can cut short the lives of those who love you. You can worry your parents into an early grave. Some husbands, by the way they are living, are killing their wives by degrees.

Example: Two drunken sons came home at 2:00 AM. Their father handed each of them a pistol. He said, "It would be better to kill your mother with bullets than to kill her by degrees like you're doing."

- B. There is murder by corruption. The liquor and beer industries are guilty of breaking this commandment. Consider all the lives that have been taken by drunken drivers. Think of the lives that have been taken through violence of those controlled by alcohol.

The curse of God is upon it for those who make it, buy it, sell it, serve it,

or vote for it. That goes the same for illegal drugs. See Proverbs 23:29-35.

- C. There is murder by carnality. This is living a flesh-controlled life, and it breaks the spirit of the commandment. How many have died because of AIDS? How many more will die from it?
- III. THERE IS INVISIBLE MURDER. This is the murder no one else sees. No blood is shed, but God writes it down as murder. It is murder that is in the heart but never finds expression.
- A. Invisible murder is found in the heart. Matthew 15:19 states, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” If through anger and contempt we say, “you fool,” God writes it down as murder (Matthew 5:21-23).
 - B. Invisible murder is manifested in hatred. I John 3:15, states, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

If your heart is headquarters for hate, you are a murderer and need to be saved. The above scripture says no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

In our land we have racial hate, religious hate, and revengeful hate. I John 4:20-21 says the only way our problems can be solved is through love. The only way we can love is Jesus Christ loving through us.

“Thou shalt not commit murder” – intentional murder, indirect murder, or invisible murder. Many times we feel that this commandment does not apply to us. We feel self-righteous, but almost 2,000 years ago we helped crucify Jesus Christ.

We stand guilty before the Lord for our participation not in homicide but deicide. Our hard hearts were the hammers that drove the nails through Jesus’ hands and feet. The same cross that reveals our guilt also reveals our salvation.