

*Freedom: The Unexpected Logic of Blood-Bought Liberty*

**The Gift of Life**

Exodus 20:13

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The Lord's Day Morning

November 25, 2018

*You shall not murder.*

–Exodus 20:13

All human beings are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and are therefore equal in worth, regardless of race, gender, class, or age. Therefore, the sanctity of human life is a cornerstone of Christian ethics. We are bound to love our neighbors by guarding their lives. Only God has the authority to determine who lives and dies, and in certain cases, he may authorize human beings to take the life of another (self-defense or defense of others to prevent murder, capital punishment for murder, a just war to prevent murder). However, the sixth commandment is not limited to merely avoiding physical murder. Rather it demands that we proactively seek to value all human life and protect our neighbor (in the words of the Heidelberg Catechism) “from harm as much as we can and to do good even to our enemies.” Here are four ways we can obey the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ injustice.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ body stewardship.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ in life-giving ministry.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ without hate.