



"Is There Murder or Love in You?"

Pastor Samuel Burba | August 20, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

Exodus 20:1-21

I. Why Does God Hate Murder?

A. Murder **DESTROYS** the Life Given by God

(Genesis 2:7; 9:4-5)

B. Murder Defiles the **IMAGE OF GOD**

(Genesis 9:6; Psalms 139:14; Proverbs 14:31; 17:5)

C. Murder Usurps God's **AUTHORITY**

(Genesis 4:13-15; Job 1:21)

- The one that murders is in abject rebellion not just against man but against God Himself. Thus, the murder is tightly connected to the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

II. Are You a Murderer?

A. Intentional Murder

- חצר – Means to **kill, murder, strike down, slay**. The verb [...] denotes illegal behavior against the community which is always directed against an individual; the act may [...] take place in connection with blood vengeance.¹

B. Murder Through **NEGLECT**

(Ezekiel 33:7-9)

- "The rationale for the prohibition is a theological one - persons bear the image of God himself. It implicitly condemns disrespect for humans at any socio-economic level, for every person bears the Creator's image."²
- Consider the silence of the churches when Hitler took over Germany murdering millions. Implications for abortion, assisted suicide, war time atrocities, atrocities at our nation's border ...
- Are you willing to warn this generation? Are you willing to speak up for the marginalized, vulnerable and oppressed of this culture? How has He equipped you to be a watchman? Is God calling you to go on a missions trip or to support the work of a missionary?

C. Murder Through **MALICE**

Matthew 5:21-23 "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."

- **UNRESOLVED ANGER** in your heart towards another person
- **SLANDERING** or expressing contempt for another person
- Uttering **DEROGATORY WORDS** and **CURSES** at a person makes one "guilty enough to go into the hell of fire"³

III. What Now? How Can I Fulfill the Law?

(Jonah 4:4; Hebrews 12:24)

A. **CONFESS** and **RECEIVE** the Gift of God's Grace

- Abel's blood rightly speaks **CONDEMNED** while Christ's blood speaks **REDEMPTION**

B. Be **RECONCILED**

(Matthew 5:23-24)

C. Love **YOUR NEIGHBOR**

(Matthew 7:12-14)

Romans 13:8-10 "Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

- What would Shiloh Community Church look like if we expressed this kind of love for one another?

D. Love **THE LORD YOUR GOD**

Romans 8:3-5 "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit."

¹ Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994-2000), 1283.

² Eugene Carpenter, Exodus, vol. 2, Evangelical Exegetical Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016), 48.

³ William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 339.



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1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Exodus 20:1-26
- b. Read and study the context around the law
- c. Read and study the story/narrative around the law

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

- a. Literary Context: Let's explore this covenant context that I mentioned last week. The best way to understand an Old Testament Covenant may be expressed in this way, "At the heart of covenant, then is the relationship between parties characterized by faithfulness and loyalty in love."¹ Further, a covenant in the Old Testament is best understood as "person-oriented, and theologically speaking, arises, not with benefits as the chief barter item, but out of a desire for a measure of intimacy."² This is where the story comes into play. The story with this covenant law communicates that God is not some cosmic deity that forges these mandates for Israel, and then remains in the heavens distant from His people. Through these laws, God opens himself up to show Israel His own goodness so that they would lovingly and willingly devote their whole person to Him. The covenant's goal is to bring the people in to experience the holiness and goodness of God, with the result that they become more like Him. The story is necessary in order for us to see God as he intended to reveal himself.
- b. Biblical/Historical Context: Another aspect of this is the element of worship. These laws were not given to ruin the Israelites or even make their lives more burdensome. Grant Osborne says it well, "The whole [law] is framed by worship (Ex. 20:23-26; 23:10-19) and shows that the primary purpose for the stipulations was maintaining the relationship with God through worship."³ In ancient times, laws were given in order to help the people worship God and engage with God in an intimate relationship. If we want to have a pure relationship with God, we also must gladly follow his commands in Scripture that apply to us.

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. What do you think "murder" means? What does God mean when he uses the word murder in this commandment? Where, in Scripture, do we see murdering vs. killing?
- b. Why is murder wrong? Consider Genesis 9:1-6.

- c. Do you think murder is forgivable or do you struggle accepting that God could forgive this kind of sin? (a.k.a. a leader who has committed genocide)
- d. What is the intended heart meaning behind this commandment? Consider Matthew 5:21-23.

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. Do you struggle with anger toward a particular person(s)? What does God want you to do with that?
- b. How would you speak into someone's life, if you knew they had deep anger or resentment towards another person?
- c. What do you think of capital punishment? Does the Bible affirm it? Does it crossover into the New Covenant?
- d. When does human life begin? How would you talk to someone who is considering abortion and how would you explain to them this concept of murder? How could a person be angry enough toward a baby that someone would kill it? How can you instruct a person who is feeling this way?
- e. Consider Matthew 7 and Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves. How would your life change if you considered seriously our duty to love one another?

¹ Peter Gentry and Stephen J. Wellum, Kingdom through Covenant: A Biblical-Theological Understanding of the Covenants, 2nd ed. (Wheaton: Crossway, 2018), 173.

² Elmer A. Martens, God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1981), 72-73.

³ Grant Osborne, The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation, Rev. and Exp. (Downers Grove, IL: 2006), 187.