

WRITTEN WRITTEN IN STONE IN STONE

Love My Enemies | Written in Stone

Exodus 20:1-2, 13

What is the 5th commandment and WHY does it matter?

God has set us free so we can live free. That means we prioritize God in our life so we can filter out whatever does not serve us to serve Him. As image bearers, we represent Him in how we talk & how we spend our time...especially to our kids! Learning to honor our parents help us to honor God and people. Today, we talk about murder!

While 10 Commandments didn't save the Israelites, they did provide a framework to build their new FREE community. They would discover that even though the Law was GOOD, they were still enslaved to sin. The Law reveals we still need Jesus to set us free and live out our lives loving God and loving people.

Exodus 20:1-2, 13: *Then God gave the people all these instructions: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. (Relational-personal God who has rescuED us from slavery to FREEDOM) 13 "You must not murder.*

We must not murder. → Wilkin Quote

- **What is the difference between "kill" & "murder?"** → Hebrew word for kill is: "רצח" (ratsach)
- **Murder: unsanctioned taking of human life w/malicious intent or premeditation.**
 - Cain & Abel → Family is the laboratory of learning faith...and its its the incubator of murderous thoughts.
 - Pharaoh / Egyptian Culture: Murdered all the baby boys (Ex. 1:15-22) = INCONVENIENT.
 - Herod (Mt. 2:16-18): Herod tried to murder Jesus! = Threat to his rule.
- **What does murder include/exclude?** → Clarksville: We had a bunch of soldiers in our church.
 - EXCLUDES MORAL KILLING: Self-Defense, Just War, & Capital Punishment, Hunting. → PETA Quote
 - INCLUDES IMMORAL KILLING: "MURDER" → What constitutes "human?" → Does God sanction abortion?
 - Zygote contains all genetic info needed to develop into a human being. → Heart beats at 3 weeks.
 - Quote by Robert P. George: "Human embryos are not...some other type of animal organism..."
 - Life begins at conception: Sinners in womb: Psalm 51:5 → Psalm 139:13-16 → Is. & Jer. called in womb. → Lk. 1:15 - John the Baptist filled w HS in womb. → **He gets us VIDEO.** → Jesus...a baby in a womb.
 - The unborn, elderly, physically or mentally challenged, poor, powerless, the foreigner...MY ENEMY?!
- Kingdom Culture: (Jesus is King): We serve a God who creates, sustains, & enters into life because he VALUES life.
- VISION: What is Mesa: We are PRO-baby Jesus → hope → women → men → responsibility → education → justice → assistance → Bible → TRUSTING JESUS even in IMPOSSIBLE situations...bc a hard life is still a HOLY life.

Jesus takes murder to a deeper level. → Breaking the the 6th commandment...is easier to break in our HEARTS.

- Jesus famously taught: "If you call someone an idiot..." → Matthew 5:22-24
- Jesus goes deeper...to the root of our sin...our hearts. → Cain: Offense → Anger → Hate → Murder → I have forgiven...
- Jesus was murdered so the cycle could be broken. → We have sinned → offended → angered → murdered...
 - Jesus **died on the cross** to take the punishment of our sin. → This SATISFIED the **JUSTICE of God.**
 - Jesus **rose from the grave** to give us life after we die. → This FULFILLED the **LOVE of God.**

How do we love our enemies?

- REST → Redefine enemy → Take anger to God → Imagine them in God's arms → Forgive → Pray → Kill em w/ kindness → Share
- Robert Rule/Linda QUOTE. → Robert RELEASED Gary. → "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do..."

→ When we love our enemies, we live out the Gospel.

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Can you explain the difference between "kill" and "murder" based on the Hebrew word for kill in the Bible?
2. How does Jesus go deeper with the 6th commandment?
3. What are some practical ways I can we "love my enemies?"
4. Why does loving our enemies reflect the Gospel, considering that we were once enemies of God in our sin?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me to love my enemies and to live out YOUR Gospel!"

TEACHING NUGGETS:

Why commandments? What is the purpose of the Law?

1. **Revealing God's Holiness:** Exodus 20:7-8 (NLT) - "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
2. **Establishing God's Covenant:** Exodus 34:28 (NLT) - "Moses remained there on the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights. In all that time, he ate no bread and drank no water. And the Lord wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets."
3. **Guiding Moral and Ethical Behavior:** Exodus 20:12 (NLT) - "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
4. **Maintaining Social Order:** Exodus 21:23-25 (NLT) - "But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot."
5. **Revealing God's Will:** Psalm 119:105 (NLT) - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
6. **Teaching Love and Compassion:** Leviticus 19:18 (NLT) - "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
7. **Revealing Humanity's Sinfulness:** Romans 3:20 (NLT) - "For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."
8. **Pointing to Christ:** Galatians 3:24 (NLT) - "Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith."

Augustine on "Just War" :

The earliest church father who is often associated with outlining the principles of a just war is Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD). His ideas are found in his work "The City of God" (Latin: "De Civitate Dei"), specifically in Book XIX, chapters 7-17.

- **Legitimate Authority:** Augustine emphasized that a war must be waged by a legitimate authority, typically the government or a ruler, rather than by individuals or groups acting independently. This authority should declare war in accordance with proper legal procedures.
- **Just Cause:** Augustine argued that a just war must have a legitimate and morally defensible reason, such as self-defense, the defense of innocent lives, or the restoration of justice. The cause should be in response to a significant and unjust harm.
- **Right Intention:** The primary intention of going to war should be to restore peace and justice, not for selfish gain or revenge. Augustine emphasized that the motivation for war should be the pursuit of a just outcome.
- **Proportionality:** Augustine recognized the importance of proportionality in the use of force. He cautioned against excessive force and harm inflicted during warfare, stressing that the benefits of the war should outweigh the harm caused.
- **Last Resort:** Augustine believed that war should be a last resort, used only when all peaceful means of resolving the conflict had been exhausted. Diplomacy, negotiation, and non-violent methods should be pursued first.
- **Right Conduct:** Augustine advocated for the humane treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of non-combatants, particularly civilians. Deliberate harm to innocent people should be avoided.
- **Right to Self-Defense:** Augustine supported the idea of self-defense as a just cause for war. If a nation or community is under attack or facing a grave threat, it has the right to defend itself.
- **Pursuit of Peace:** Augustine stressed that the ultimate goal of a just war should be the reestablishment of peace and order. War should not be waged for its own sake but as a means to achieve a just and lasting peace.

VIDEOS:



QUOTES / SONGS:

- "Approximately 43% of the Bible is made up of narrative, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly 33% of the Bible is poetry, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining 24% of the Bible is prose discourse, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay." - [The Bible Project](#)
- "I've never considered divorce," she said once. "Murder, yes, but not divorce." - [Ruth Bell Graham](#)
- "It is not just the pace that changes with the sixth word, but the focus. Having given five exhortations to honor God and elders, the Ten Words now turn their attention to the business of honoring one another as fellow image bearers. We progress from discussion of how we relate to our heavenly Parent, to our earthly parents (human authorities), to our

brothers and sisters (our neighbors). Essentially, the last five words will speak to the proper treatment of siblings. (89–90)” - **Jenn Wilkin**

- “I wanted to meet my birth mother and to thank her because I didn’t end up as an abortion. She was 23 and went through alot.” - **Steve Jobs**
- “A pig is a dog is a rat is a boy.” - **Former PETA Motto**
- “Human embryos are not...some other type of animal organism, like a dog or cat. Neither are they a part of an organism, like a heart, a kidney, or a skin cell. Nor again are they a disorganized aggregate, a mere clump of cells awaiting some magical transformation. Rather, a human embryo is a whole living member of the species *Homo sapiens* in the earliest stage of his or her natural development.” - **Embryo: A Defense of Human Life by Robert P. George and Christopher Tollefsen**
- “Mr Ridgeway, Umm...there are people here that hate you. I am not of them. You’ve made it difficult to live up to what i believe and that is what God says to do. And that says to forgive. You are forgiven sir.” - **Robert Rule**

ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- **“Ten Words to Live By: Delighting in and Doing What God Commands”**: by Jen Wilkin
- **“Embryo: A Defense of Human Life”**: by Robert P. George and Christopher Tollefsen

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Psalm 1:1** - Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- **Psalm 1:2** - But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- **Psalm 1:3** - 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
- **Galatians 5:1** - So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.
- **John 10:10** - The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- **John 14:15** - “If you love me, obey my commandments.
- **Mark 12:29-31** - 29 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. 30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”
- **Matthew 5:17** - “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.
- **Genesis 1:26-27** - 26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” 27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
- **Genesis 4:7-8** - “You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” 8 One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.
- **Genesis 9:6** - “6 If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.
- **Genesis 37:4-5, 18** - “But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn’t say a kind word to him... So when Joseph’s brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him.”
- **Exodus 1:15-22**: “15 Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: 16 ‘When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver. If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.’ 17 But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too. 18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. ‘Why have you done this?’ he demanded. ‘Why have you allowed the boys to live?’ 19 ‘The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,’ the midwives replied. ‘They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.’ 20 So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. 22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: ‘Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.’”
- **Deuteronomy 19:11-12** - “But suppose someone is hostile toward a neighbor and deliberately ambushes and murders him and then flees to one of the cities of refuge. In that case, the elders of the murderer’s hometown must send agents to the city of refuge to bring him back and hand him over to the dead person’s avenger to be put to death.”

- **Joshua 20:5** - "And when the one who has avenged the death is satisfied, the murderer must not be executed. But if the family of the victim is not satisfied, the avenger of blood may continue to pursue the murderer into the city of refuge and kill him."
- **Psalms 51:5** - "5 For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. 6 But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there."
- **Psalms 138:13-16** - You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.
- **Matthew 2:16-18**: "16 Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance. 17 Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 'A cry was heard in Ramah—weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead.'"
- **Matthew 5:22-24** - "21 'You have heard that our ancestors were told, "You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment." 22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell. 23 'So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.'
- **Luke 2:12** - 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."
- **Luke 4:24** - "Then he said, 'I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.'"
- **Luke 7:18** - "The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples."
- **John 8:44** - "For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies."
- **Romans 13:9** - "For the commandments say, 'You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet.' These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- **1 John 3:15** - "Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them."
- **Hebrews 12:24** - "You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel."
- **Ephesians 4:26-27** - "And 'don't sin by letting anger control you.' Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil."
- **Exodus 20:1-17** - Then God gave the people all these instructions:
 2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.
 3 "You must not have any other god but me.
 4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.
 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.
 7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.
 8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 You have six days each week for your ordinary work,
 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.
 12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
 13 "You must not murder.
 14 "You must not commit adultery.
 15 "You must not steal.
 16 "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
 17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

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