

THE GIFT OF LIFE
Exodus 20:13 (CSB)

"Do not murder."

Exodus 20:13 (CSB)

"Thou shalt not kill."

Exodus 20:13 (KJV 1900)

"When a man steals an ox or a sheep and butchers it or sells it, he must repay five cattle for the ox or four sheep for the sheep. ² If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in, and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed. ³ But if this happens after sunrise, the householder is guilty of bloodshed. A thief must make full restitution. If he is unable, he is to be sold because of his theft. ⁴ If what was stolen—whether ox, donkey, or sheep—is actually found alive in his possession, he must repay double."

Exodus 22:1-4 (CSB)

1. This guardrail PROTECTS us from OURSELVES.
2. This guardrail brings us CLOSER to GOD.

Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7 (CSB)

Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.

Acts 17:25 (CSB)

In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵ That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:4-5 (CSB)

3. The GOSPEL fills in the GAPS between the guardrails.

"You have heard that it was said to our ancestors, Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you, everyone who is angry with his brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Whoever insults his brother or sister, will be subject to the court. Whoever says, 'You fool!' will be subject to hellfire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Reach a settlement quickly with your adversary while you're on the way with him to the court, or your adversary will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown

into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny.”

Matthew 5:21-26 (CSB)

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers and sisters. The one who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. ¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

1 John 3:14-18 (CSB)