

Sermon Notes –Rules for Free People – Commandment #6 “Do Not Murder” (Exodus 20:13)

1. What Is God Prohibiting?

- The Hebrew: *Lo Ratsach* – “No murder.”
- **Ratsach** refers specifically to **homicide**—the deliberate or negligent taking of innocent life.
- It includes: Premeditated murder, Negligent homicide (Deuteronomy 22:8), Abortion (Psalm 139:13–16), Suicide and assisted suicide
- It does **not** include: State action (Romans 13:4), Military duty (1 Samuel 17), or Self-defense (Exodus 22:2)
- The scope is deeper than we think: God commands not just action, but care and intentional protection of life.

2. Why Does God Prohibit Murder?

- **Because of the Image of God** in every human (Genesis 1:26–27)
 - Human life reflects God Himself – we bear His image (*Imago Dei*).
 - To destroy a life is to mar that image and halt God’s purposes.
- **Because God defends the vulnerable.**
 - God’s law flips the script on survival-of-the-fittest societies.
 - The strong must protect—not prey on—the weak.
- **Murder destroys not just life, but legacy.**
 - A person’s potential and impact are cut off.

3. What Does Jesus Say About It?

- **Matthew 5:21–22** – Jesus takes it deeper.
 - “You have heard it said... ‘Do not murder.’ But I say to you, anyone angry with a brother or sister is subject to judgment.”
- Murder begins in the heart—with anger, bitterness, hatred.
- Two gospel warnings:
 1. **Don’t let hate take root.** It leads to destruction.
 2. **You won’t share the Gospel with someone you hate.** Hatred blocks mission.
- We must be people of peace and grace, who protect life and extend love—even to those we feel don’t deserve it.

Reflection: Where have you let anger fester? Where has hate begun to root itself in your heart? Ask God for the strength and grace to uproot it and live in His freedom.

Devotion 1: Sacred from the Start

Scripture: Psalm 139:13–16

Reflection:

Even before birth, God declares life to be sacred. He knits us together in the womb, ordains our days, and calls each life wonderfully made. The 6th commandment invites us to honor that value—not just in how we treat others, but in how we view the vulnerable and voiceless.

Challenge:

This week, pray for one vulnerable group—unborn children, the elderly, the mentally ill, the lonely. Ask God to show you how to be an advocate for life in word and deed.

Devotion 2: Life Bears God's Image

Scripture: Genesis 1:26–27

Reflection:

Every human being you meet today bears the image of God. That includes people you disagree with, people who offend you, and people society casts aside. The 6th commandment isn't just about what *not* to do—it's about remembering who we're dealing with: God's creation.

Challenge:

Speak to one person today—at work, at the store, at home—as if they are wearing a sign that says: “*Made in the Image of God.*” See how it changes your tone and mindset.

Devotion 3: Murder Starts in the Heart

Scripture: Matthew 5:21–22

Reflection:

Jesus teaches that anger, bitterness, and resentment are the seeds of murder. Before a violent act is ever committed, it takes root in the heart. The 6th commandment becomes personal—are we guarding our hearts, or letting hate grow?

Challenge:

Ask God to reveal any person or group you've been holding anger toward. Confess it. Then pray for that person by name, asking God to bless them. It may not be easy, but it's the path to freedom and healing.