

## “The Ten Commandments (Part 7 – No Murder)”

Every human life is extremely valuable to God. And yet, news of murders fills our headlines daily. The LORD gives us the Sixth Commandment in Exodus 20:13, where He says: “***You shall not murder.***” Since God has purposes for every person, all life must be prized and protected. This Command refers to “*unlawful slaying*,” it’s “*the unjust taking of a legally innocent life.*” Humans are unique in that they alone are made in the image of God (see Genesis 1:27). Since every human life has tremendous value, a person is held accountable if they take someone’s life. Every person you meet is an image-bearer of God, designed with dignity. When you think of men and women as anything less than the image of God, you devalue life. The Sixth Commandment prohibits the taking of innocent human life.

Murder is a serious crime because:

- **Murder is an assault on God Himself** (because to murder another human being is to murder what is most like God in creation);
- **Murder assumes the authority and right reserved for God alone** (only God has the right to give life and take away life);
- **Every person is immeasurably valuable** (only human beings have eternal spirits which exist forever);
- **We are to be our brother’s/sister’s keeper** (when a human being murders another human being, they are slaying the image of God in the one who is their brother/sister);
- **Murder defiles the land** (bloodshed pollutes the land);
- **Murder is directly identified with Satan** (those who murder are of the evil one [see 1 John 3:12]; Jesus called Satan “a murderer” [see John 8:44]);
- **Murder cannot be undone** (if you take a human life, it is impossible to get life back again).

The Sixth Commandment prohibits:

- **Murder.** It was anger that turned Cain into an assassin.
- **Genocide.** Genocide is “*the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group.*”
- **Abortion.** Since 1973 approximately 67 million image-bearers of God have been extinguished through abortion.
- **Suicide.** No matter how bleak things look don’t take the only life God has given to you. When you are hurting, discouraged, or depressed – hear Christ tell you how valuable you are to Him. Don’t let your last act (before standing before God to give an account) be self-murder. Don’t seal your pain for all eternity (which will be a million times worse than the pain you’re experiencing on earth) by committing suicide.
- **Euthanasia.** As hard as it is to watch a loved one suffer, out of fear of God never take steps to end the person’s life. Do all you can to pray the prayer of faith and minister comfort and manage the pain.

- **Hatred in the heart.** Jesus said in Matthew 5:21-22: “*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.”*” <sup>22</sup> *But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, “Raca!” shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, “You fool!” shall be in danger of hell fire.”*” While we might not murder with our hands, we must make sure we don’t have murder in our hearts. 1 John 3:15 says: “*Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*”

## **Discussion Guide/Action Steps**

1. Control your anger. Be angry and sin not.
2. Get hatred out of your heart.
3. Affirm that the baby in the womb is human life. Stand up for the pre-born since they cannot fight for themselves.
4. Receive Christ’s forgiveness and healing if you have violated The Sixth Commandment in any way.
5. Reach out to someone, anyone, if you are having suicidal thoughts.
6. Make sure you don’t have murder in your heart (anger, hatred).
7. Cultivate a view of the sanctity of life, where you not only refrain from taking a life, but you also engage in protecting and preserving life.
8. Share the Gospel of Life with people who are dead in their sins (so you don’t become an accessory to someone’s spiritual death).