

COMMANDMENT VI

COMMANDMENT VII

Commandment VI states in Exodus 20:13 “Thou shalt not kill.”

This is a commandment that could take a ‘long’ time to discuss, but I will try to summarize several things, and then allow you to do some further personal research.

In Genesis 9:6, God establishes the sanctity of life. Many years before Moses, God forbade murder and commanded the murderer’s execution----the basis for this? Man is made in God’s image.

If we read Number 35, we note that God clarifies the differences between premeditated and unpremeditated killing. The Hebrew word used in Exodus 20:13 (‘kill’) is a special word that spoke of premeditated murder. And, we must take care to understand that there is nothing in the sixth commandment that forbids capital punishment. In Romans 13:4 we see where God speaks of the human government as a servant of God. Capital punishment is not the same as murder, and is authorized by Scripture. So, the sixth commandment deals with the action of an individual against another individual, and not with the action of the government as it protects its citizens.

Life is certainly a gift of God. And, who are we to take away what God has given?

But, let us look at ‘another side’ of the aspect of killing/murder.

Matthew 5:21, 22 shows us that the scribes and Pharisees took the ‘letter’ of the law----and stopped there. As long as what they did fell short of murder, they had not sinned nor displeased God (according to their way of thinking). But, Jesus states that anyone angry without a cause (or a God-given purpose) is guilty and deserves judgment. Even calling someone “Raca” (meaning fool, empty headed numbskull) gives cause for a person to be brought before a religious Supreme Court. And, saying “Thou fool” (meaning you stupid, godless fool, you stubborn godless rebel) would cause a person to be guilty enough to go into hell (Gehenna) or the lake of fire.

According to Matthew 5, when we hate another person, we are rejecting someone who is a child of God, and in so doing we also reject God and eternal life. Read I John 3:15. Are you a murderer?? “No, definitely not”, you might say. Go back and read the Scripture again. I once read the following statements: Murder is hatred in action. Hatred is murder in feeling. This places a different view of our actions, doesn’t it?

In a few short paragraphs, I hope I have given you some food for thought, and you will be able to complete some further research into this.

While the sixth commandment protected the sanctity of human life, the seventh commandment protected the sanctity of marriage and family. Exodus 20:14 states “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Adultery violates the principle God established when He created man and woman. He declared that the husband and wife are one flesh. And, let us not forget that the integrity of a marriage depends on the faithfulness of spouses to one another. Anything that invades a marriage, that weakens the marriage, or destroys the marriage, is thwarting the purpose of God in His creation.

As with the sixth commandment, we should look to Matthew 5. In that chapter, Jesus looks at purity of thought. He states that if someone looks at another person with lust (immoral desire which would seek fulfillment if the opportunity arose), this causes the person to be unfaithful to their spouse. So, Jesus places emphasis again, not just on actions but thoughts. Sometimes it is easier to keep a rule than to be pure minded. Would you agree??

A Christian marriage must be a triangle---man, woman, and God----of course, with God at the pentacle.

As with the sixth commandment, the seventh commandment lends itself to much discussion, but I will not try to make this lesson too long. But, I hope you will continue to meditate on God's word and to remember that He wants to be a part of our daily life.

“Lord, may we always remember to honor the sanctity of life as You intended. And may we honor and cherish our spouse and serve You as a family. Amen.”

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