

The Ten Commandments

Commandment 6: You shall not murder

A third-grade Sunday school teacher was giving a Bible lesson on the commandment, honor thy father and thy mother.

“Now, does anyone know a commandment for brothers and sisters?”

One sharp girl raised her hand and said, “‘Thou shalt not kill.’”

Jack Seberry

Exodus 20: 13 “You shall not murder”

1) The reality of murder

- Americans now alive who will one day be murdered: 2,000,000
Robert Shapiro (1991)
- Chances of your being killed by terrorists overseas: 1 in 650,000
Chances of your being killed by Americans in Baltimore: 1 in 4,000
Chances of your being aborted if you are in the womb of an American woman: 1 in 3.3.
Bernard Siskin (1989)
- South Africa’s murder rate per day – 50
News 24 (2009)
- It didn’t take long for the murder to take place after the fall. Cain killed Abel in Genesis 4. They were the sons of Adam and Eve – the first man and woman.
- When man sinned and became sinful by nature all sin lies within that sinful nature i.e. we all have the potential to commit any sin.
 - Mark 7: 21 – 22 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly
 - As murder storywriters assume, and as most of us learn in experience, we have in us capacities for fury, fear, envy, greed, conceit, callousness, and hate which, given the right provocation, could make killers out of us all—baby-batterers or Blue-beards, professional thugs or amateur hit men. G.K. Chesterton’s Father Brown explained his method of detection by saying, “You see, it was I who killed all those people”—in the sense that he looked within himself to find the mentality that would produce the crime he was investigating, and did in fact discover it there
....
Brown, though fictitious, states fact. When the fathomless wells of rage and hatred in the normal human heart are tapped, the results are fearful. “There but for the grace of God go I.” Only restraining and renewing grace enables anyone to keep the sixth commandment.
J.I. Packer
- If we look at history we will see that many nations that are peaceful now had brutal eras in their history. When we look at them now we wonder if that could have ever been possible – yet it happened.
- We are all capable of the same things if not restrained by God’s grace.
- Violence has become so common in our society that we have come to accept killing and death as the norm. Violent entertainment sears our consciences to the extent that children don’t see anything wrong in killing someone.
 - The blatant murders in our schools bear testimony to this fact.
 - Eleven-year-old British murderess in 1957 said: “Murder isn’t that bad. We all die sometime.”

2) Reasons people murder

- Alcohol and drugs
- Revenge
- Greed
- Jealousy
 - Sexual
 - Others recognised ahead of you (Cain and Abel)
 - What others have that you don't have (goes along with greed)
- Lust
 - Rape and murder
- Domestic arguments
 - Statistics show that this is the primary reason for murders that occur.
- The consequence of murder is death
 - Genesis 9: 6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."

3) Commandment 6 under the New Covenant

- Matthew 5: 21 – 22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.
- Under the new covenant Jesus does not only look at the act of murder but He digs to the heart of murder.
- Jesus is not nullifying the Law of Moses but bring out the heart of the matter of murder.
- Ephesians 4: 26 In your anger do not sin"
- There is a place for righteous anger:
 - Injustice
 - Oppression
 - Wickedness
- When we are angry we should not sin. We should not let that anger control us to do something evil ourselves.
- Being angry with reason is when we allow the reason for murder stated before take hold of us.
 - Thus Jesus was addressing the very heart of murder – the attitudes that would motivate someone to commit murder if put into the right circumstances.
- We need to check our hearts and see what our heart's attitudes are like
 - Are we angry with someone?
 - Are we revengeful
 - Are we jealous?
 - Do you have unresolved domestic disputes?
 - Do you have lust that could drive you to rape – and murder?
- If so then you need to repent of these things and, where applicable, make right with those you have issues with
- Matthew 5: 23 – 24 Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.