

Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Murder (*continued*)

God is the giver of life. He breathed into the first man the breath of life (Genesis 2:7), and His plan is to give every human being a chance at real life—eternal life as His sons and daughters in His Kingdom. Jesus even took things further by telling us that “*He has come that we might have life more abundantly*” John 10:10b. In living life with us “*in the flesh*” ... Jesus demonstrated for us, the victorious possibilities that can be achieved in kingdom living. That is, living life according to God’s terms. In living a sinless life, Jesus demonstrated that keeping God’s commandments become the key to successful living.

Jesus Christ said, “***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life***” (John 3:16). He desires for everyone to repent and have salvation—eternal life (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). **This physical life is a training ground for that future life.**

Choose life

God values life highly. He tells us to choose life: “*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.*” (Deut. 30:19)

“You shall not murder.” – Exodus 20:13 (ESV)

As we look at the sixth commandment, notice first that the ESV uses the word “murder,” not “kill.” That is because the Hebrew language has several words that mean “kill,” and the one that appears in the Hebrew text of today’s passage appears most often in the context of the deliberate taking of innocent life.

Not every kind of *killing* is murder, which means that not all acts of killing are against God’s law. Exodus 22:2–3, for example, does not prescribe the death penalty if a person kills someone in self-defense when the person has no other recourse to protect his life and property. This indicates that killing in a legitimate act of self-defense is not murder and not forbidden by the sixth commandment. ***The concern in the commandment against murder is to protect innocent life*** ... and in the case of self-defense, the innocent party is the one who must defend himself.

Jesus further explained in (Matthew 5:21–26) that the sixth commandment also prohibits those attitudes of the heart that lead to murder ... making it clear that the intention of this command goes beyond the seemingly simple Old Testament verse.

Now while the majority of people have not committed the physical act of murder ... ***Is it possible, that the majority of people are not experiencing the blessings of the abundant life because of breaking the sixth commandment? Let us examine it*** ...

3 Ways We Murder Others in Our Heart

1. Anger

Jesus equates the consequences of anger toward others to the consequences of murder. This may seem harsh, but Jesus knows our hearts far better than we do. *“The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God”* (James 1:19-20). Human anger is the first stop on the line to murder, and to the Holy God, a step toward a sin is as bad as the sin itself. Anger is dangerous and must be stamped out immediately.

2. Insults

Jesus goes on to point out that insults are even further down the road toward murder. Making someone feel small, worthless, and insignificant with words and actions is unrestrained anger giving its first blows.

3. Hatred

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15)

Hatred is a deep and abiding anger and disdain; it means that, not only have you given into anger, you feed it and help it grow. The apostle John tells us that hatred of another makes us a murderer. It is a sign that you are unrepentant and caught up in sin that violates the 6th commandment.

If you forgive others their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15)

Peace through the Sacrifice of Christ

Murder produces broken relationships. Therefore, the 6th commandment is about keeping peace in a relationship. God put this command in the absolute strongest words, “You shall not murder,” to show us the severity of broken relationships and broken peace.

Kingdom Living says ... It is our responsibility to restore peace in our relationships, whatever side of the wrong we are on!