

CALL to PRAYER - society is becoming increasingly violent – domestic violence - entertainment

## Exodus 20:13 – Love for Human Life

Intro – “*What is the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment?*” is a question I will often ask my kids when observing some violence portrayed on the screen. The younger generation probably witness more violence in a year than the older did in a lifetime. Human life is often hated, degraded, and disregarded. We have come to the commandment dealing with love for human life. (Two tables / Two loves) We are to love our neighbor. We do this by respecting the life of our neighbor and recognizing the dignity of our neighbor and not demeaning our neighbor. Our neighbor is made in the very image of God and that spark of life put there by the Divine is to garner the utmost dignity. Human life is to be loved and we are to seek to preserve our neighbor’s life as well as our own. God has given a majesty to mankind, and we are to recognize and respect that inherit worth in each individual. Rule #6 is short in words but broad in meaning. It not only forbids the taking of human life, but it enjoins the honoring of human life. We are to love human life

### WE ARE NOT TO TAKE INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE

- Exodus 20:13                      Murder is a better rendering of the meaning than kill
  - There is a time to kill (Eccles. 3:3) but there is never a time to murder
  - There is a time for war.              Eccles 3:8.              Killing in [just] war is not murder
    - A soldier is not a murderer.      God has given *the sword* to governments
  - There is a place for capital punishment              Killing a murderer is not murder
  - Killing animals is not murder
    - God said that we are to *kill and eat* – Acts10:12-13 (PETA)
  - Rule #6 does not forbid all killing, it forbids all murder
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment forbids the taking of innocent human life
  - The shedding of innocent blood is something God hates - Proverbs 6:16-17
  - Bloodshed cries out to God - Gen. 4:10 (murder & sodomy are sins that scream)
  - God destroyed mankind in Noah’s day because of their violence – Gen. 6:11-13
  - God instituted the death penalty for murder after the flood – Gen. 9:6
  - Murder is an assault upon the image of God stamped into a human being
    - To deface and try to rub out that image of life is heinous & hatred of God
    - We’re to love life not hate life. Those who hate God love death- Prov. 8:36
- Murder pollutes the land
  - Numbers 35:33                      God requires the death penalty for murders
    - A justice system that refuses to punish...pollutes society and is guilty
  - God provided sanctuary cities for those guilty of manslaughter
    - Accidental death is to be handled differently (Numb. 35) lessor degrees
- Suicide is self-murder
  - We are not to harm others or ourselves
  - Human life is to be loved and cherished.      People are precious...you are precious
  - Suicide is on the rise.                      We need more love in society

## WE ARE NOT TO ENDANGER HUMAN LIFE

- Our responsibility in Rule #6 isn't confined to just murder...we are not to endanger
  - Deut. 22:8 (ice on the front porch for postman)
  - We are not to put our fellow man in undo danger or in harm's way
    - Tic Tok challenges....dares....drugs....
- We are to do all we can to preserve our neighbor's life as well as our own
  - We are to encourage good health, good medicine, good exercise, and good food
    - 1 Tim. 5:23 1 Tim. 4:8
  - God has given us life and we are to love it and preserve it and not abuse it
    - "*Many dig their own grave with their own teeth*" T. Watson
    - Drunkards & gluttons may live out half their days like murders (ps.55:23)
- Life is precious and we are to preserve it.
  - We are to do all we can to enhance it and not to endanger it

## WE ARE NOT TO DEGRADE HUMAN LIFE

- Jesus is the Lawgiver and He often corrected our misreading & limiting of His law
  - Matt. 5:21-22 The application of Rule #6 extends to anger. 1 John 3:15
    - Also slander "*you good for nothing*" human life is precious not worthless
    - Demeaning someone's nature brings guilt of eternal torture
    - Jesus *turns up the heat* as it gets more heinous (degrees of PUNishment)
- We are not to degrade human life in word or deed
  - Human life is a gift from Almighty God and all humans are made in His image
    - Everyone is worthy of dignity and respect
  - Lev. 19:14 The deaf won't hear it and the blind won't see it
    - But we are not to do it because of their innate dignity (Ex. 4:11)
- It seems as though our society is becoming more mean
  - There are more cut downs than build ups. Trash talk/name calling is common
    - Middle school church basketball
  - There is this degrading of human life and how we view/speak to one another....
- Murder begins in the heart - Matt. 15:18-19
  - The seeds of murder are sown in anger
  - The seeds of murder are irrigated when others are denigrated
  - The spirit of murder grows when others are seen as less than they are.
  - Labels of low esteem are applied to those who are vilified...not worthy of honor
  - Murder sprouts in this fertile soil of disregarding the worth of our neighbor
    - Our neighbor is made in God's image and we should love them
    - We are not to demean, we are to give dignity to our fellow image bearers
- Jesus said the last days would be like the days of Noah and days of Lot - Luke 17:26-29
  - Like the days of Noah, the earth has become corrupt- Sin screams out to heaven
  - What was the sin that cried out in Noah's day? The earth was full of violence
  - Bloodshed cries out & pollutes our land. Only by bloodshed can it be atoned for
  - The murder of Jesus is the only hope for His murderers