

How Then Shall We Live?

Sixth Commandment

“You shall not murder” - Hebrew word is *rasah*

“From each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” Genesis 9:5-6

Principles

1. The sacredness of human life

Why is human life sacred?

- i. It is a gift of God.
- ii. It is priceless

2. We are created in God's image

“Whenever you harm another human being, physically, spiritually or emotionally, whenever you violate another human being, whenever you use or abuse them, you're tearing God's s picture.” Thomas Watson

“Because we're rational we hunger to know, because we're personal we hunger for love, because we're creative we hunger for beauty, because we're eternal we hunger to live, that's why we rage against the dying of the light.” – Tim Keller

Applications

1. Unlawful and premediated murder

Murder increased from 15 000 deaths in 2011/12 to 25 000 in 2021/22.

2021/22 per capita rate of murders = 42 per 100 000.

2. Abortion

US (2020) – 930,000 abortions, 1 in 5 pregnancies ended in abortion

SA (2015–2019) – 2 million pregnancies

65% were unintended, 37% ended in abortion. (Guttmacher Institute)

Is this about the right to choose OR Is it about the right to kill?

“Doctrine of carefulness” — Tim Keller

3. Euthanasia

“suicide by remote control” — Alistair Begg

4. Anger and hate

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[b][c]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’^[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:21-24

“Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.” (1 John 3:15).

So what must we do?

1. Repent

2. Receive

3. Reconcile.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

4. Replace

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31-32