

*“The Heart of the Sixth Commandment”*  
Matthew 5:21-26

---

Jesus Christ calls men back to a true understanding of the Law of God.

**1. The Commandment Broken**

vv. 21-22

**(1) The Error of the Scribes and Pharisees** *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ”*

-1- Construed as a mere external standard

-2- Didn’t begin to address attitudes of the heart in personal relationships!

**(2) The True Interpretation** *“But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...”*

-1- Jesus’ Authority

-2- The *heart of man* addressed!

-3- The heart of man exposed and judged!

- Whoever is angry with his brother without cause – guilty before the court!

- Whoever shall say, “Raca!” – guilty before the supreme court!

- Whoever shall say, “You fool!” – liable to ultimate destruction!

**2. The Commandment Kept**

vv. 23-26

**(1) The Priority of Love in Relationships (23-24)**

-1- The greatest act of devotion to God is polluted if known offenses are left **unaddressed!**

- The Lie: “I can enjoy my private relationship to God unhindered, even if I am refusing to address real grievances that I know others have against me.”

- The Truth: Maintaining peace with my brother is essential to maintaining communion with God!

-2- Since true worship is thereby interrupted, I must give priority to reconciling!

**(2) The Priority of Love over Personal “Rights” (25-26)**

-1- The Problem Portrayed: *“Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him...”*  
An “adversarial” disposition!

-2- The Urgency of dispensing of such an attitude *“agree...quickly!”*

-3- The Peril of Maintaining such an attitude *“...lest your adversary deliver you to the judge...”*

**Further Application:**