

Serm. Series: The Good, The Goad, The Guide: Ten Commandments

Sermon Text: Exodus 20:13 Love Life: The Sixth Commandment

For the love of God we are to love human life.

1) Loving the image-bearers of God.

- a) Gen. 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
- b) What is this image?
 - i) Something to do with humanity’s being (“Let us make”).
 - ii) Something to do with humanity’s function (“dominion”).
 - iii) Primarily to do with humanity’s unique relationship to God (“Adam fathered a son in his own likeness, after his own image, and named him Seth”).
- c) Who bears this image?
 - i) Men and women equally (“male and female He created them”).
 - ii) Fallen humanity is still in the image of God, even if that image is obscured (Gen. 9:6; James 3:9-10).
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Because the image is distorted we rely on God’s Word to “see” the image.
 - ii) Thank God for those fragments of the image that remain. Marvel at the wonder (Psalm 139:14). Mourn for the distortion (Ezek. 28:11-19).
 - iii) Because you love God love every image-bearer of God (Matthew 5:43-48; 1 John 4:20-21).

2) Preventing harm to human life.

- a) The prohibition against murder:
 - i) Abortion (Exod. 21:22-25)
 - ii) Euthanasia (2 Sam. 1:1-16)
 - iii) Revenge killing (Rom. 12:19; 2 Sam. 3:26-39)
 - iv) Unjust war/Injustice in war
 - v) Suicide (Rebellion against God and lack of faith: Abimelech, Judg. 9:50-57; Saul, 1 Sam. 31; Judas Iscariot, Matt. 27:5)
- b) The prohibition against murder extends to the whole of life:
 - i) Manslaughter due to negligence (Deut. 4:41-43)
 - ii) False witness in a capital case (Deut. 19:16-21)
 - iii) Neglect of the poor, widows, orphans in the covenant (Matt. 25:41-46)
 - iv) Unrighteous anger (Matt. 5:21-22)
 - v) Forbidding, hindering, or resisting Gospel witness (1 Thess. 2:14-16)

3) Promoting flourishing of human life.

- a) Safety/health precautions; provisions (Deut. 22:8; Matt. 25:34-40; James 2:15-16)
- b) Emergency aid (Luke 10:25-37)
- c) Defend the poor and vulnerable against injustice (Amos 5:10-15)
- d) Self-defense (Exod. 22:2; Luke 22:36)
- e) Just War (Augustine):
 - i) Prompted by Christian love
 - ii) Cause to restore peace and secure justice
 - iii) Declared by a legitimate authority
 - iv) Rules of engagement—no unnecessary violence and minimal destruction

- v) Ordained Ministers of the Church not to fight (Power of the Sword and Power of the Keys of the Kingdom not to be confused)
 - f) Capital Punishment (Gen. 9:5-6)
 - g) **Application:**
 - i) Personal responsibility for your life and those under your authority (family, employees, tenants, citizens)
 - ii) Corporate responsibility for your society (through church, government, charities)
 - iii) Self-sacrifice (John 15:13)
- 4) Proclaiming the murdered Image of the Invisible God for the redemption of human life.**
- a) The Murder of Jesus (Acts 2:23; 4:27; 5:30)
 - b) The Reconciliation of All Things by His Death (Col. 1:15-23)
 - i) "He is the image of the invisible God" (1:15)
 - ii) "For in Him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell" (1:19)
 - iii) "Through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross" (1:20)
 - iv) "if indeed you continue in the faith . . . not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven" (1:23)
 - c) The Ministry of Reconciliation (Col. 1:24-29)
 - i) "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the Church" (1:24)
 - ii) "to make the word of God fully known" (1:25)
 - iii) "Him we proclaim" (1:28)
 - iv) "For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me." (1:29)
 - d) Alive in Christ (Col. 2:13-15)
 - e) **Application:**
 - i) Proclaim the whole gospel that makes people whole.
 - ii) Never divorce ministry from the message.
 - iii) Love God by loving your neighbor.

Doxology: The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries all around. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. (Psalm 97:1-5)