

almost sanctified in our world. In the last thirty-two years, according to Dr. Dobson's Focus on the Family January 2006 magazine, there have been over 1 billion abortions worldwide! Imagine this staggering fact, how modern, educated, cultured, civil man has approved and defended, even with a passion as a human right, the killing of more than a billion babies in the last thirty years. As Dr. Dobson stated, we have exterminated no less than a sixth and almost a seventh of the world's population! How we will be judged for this, except there come repentance for this gross sin and evil. The true Christian recognizes abortion is a horrible sin, with the only exception being if the mother's health is truly at risk in keeping the baby. Otherwise all abortion is against God's holy law and will. You see, God so cares even for the tiniest, most helpless, little infant in the womb, a child made and formed in His image. And so should we.

The Heidelberg Catechism, in explaining the sixth commandment, goes on to say you and I are called, in line with this commandment also to take care of our bodies, and not hurt ourselves, or expose ourselves to any danger unnecessarily. In Matthew 4:5-7 when the devil tempted Jesus to risk His life and to jump from a great height, Jesus responded, "*It is written, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.'*" We may not unnecessarily put ourselves at risk and do dangerous things that could bring us to harm. I once saw a picture where men in Thailand would lie down in a field with spaces between them and a person on an elephant would walk over top of them, and the men of course were trusting that the elephant would make no misstep or there would be nothing left of them. That is unnecessarily exposing oneself to danger! We can do that too by being wild in driving, or careless in sports activities like skiing in a no ski zone; we can do it by not eating properly or giving in to substance abuse with alcohol, and drugs and smoking, all of which are bad for our health, or just not giving our body the proper exercise it needs. Our bodies are gifts from God and, as Paul says about believers, temples of the Holy Spirit, and God calls us to take care of our body as best we can. Who doesn't struggle in this regard in some way or another? But again the point is, do you see how God cares about human life from conception to the grave? When God says, "*Thou shalt not kill*", He means it so for our good. Amen.

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BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

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Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT [1]

Thou shalt not kill. This is God's sixth holy commandment which you can find written in the Bible in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:17. How good and how important it is that we study also this law of God. The aim in the study of this commandment is to consider with you especially what living as a Christian by the sixth commandment means. What a wonderfully enriching commandment this is! With God's help what I hope to prove is the healing light of the sixth commandment as intended by God. Rightly did someone say, "The sixth commandment - you shall not kill or murder - is a profound word of grace because it is a call to be a great lover of all humanity from conception to the grave." This for sure is what a Christian comes to understand, and so we have as our theme now, 'What living as a Christian by the sixth commandment means'.

How sad and convicting it should be that such a command is even needed. But such are the evil consequences of sin, that murder and killing others is something all too common in this world. Someone has correctly said, "Our modern world in the last hundred years has proven itself the greatest killer of all time". It is appalling the killing rate through homicides and suicides, and by way of wars and terrorist activities, and, most sadly, on account of abortions too. What is behind this holy law of God is the sanctity and preciousness of human life, from conception to the grave, as God created it. However, modern man, turning from God, also becomes increasingly violent against his fellowman. "No previous age has equaled our horror of killing, but at the same time, strangely, no previous age ever killed so much." We live in times too where, tragically, killing is often viewed as matter of entertainment. When so many in our world for fun watch others kill someone else, that is not far removed from being involved in murderous deeds ourselves. With so much killing and murder taking place in our times, and being made by modern media so much more aware immediately of any murders all across the world, surely studying this holy law of God is not irrelevant and in fact, a matter very practical indeed.

Will you and I live as a Christian in accordance with the sixth commandment? That will mean then outwardly conforming to the law, and inwardly transforming to the law, and positively performing by the law.

Living by the sixth commandment as a believer means outwardly conforming to this law. In your daily living before others you will avoid and

keep from any murderous activity whatsoever. Now you may say, 'Well, that is no problem for me....I don't fear being a murderer or even ever becoming one', but in saying that, you make two serious errors. One, you wrongly limit this sixth commandment to just the physical deed of actually killing someone. Hear what Jesus says in Matthew 5:21-22. "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, 'Thou shalt not kill'; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca [an abusive term] shall be in danger of the council [or Sanhedrin]: but whosoever shall say, 'Thou fool!', shall be in danger of hell fire.*"

What Jesus makes clear is that even the thought of murder in your heart is a violation of the sixth commandment, or just shouting angry murderous-like words to someone makes us guilty of breaking God's law. God will have us respect human life, and outwardly conforming to His law, "you shall not kill" means, as the Heidelberg Catechism rightly explains, "that neither in thoughts, or words, nor gestures, much less in deeds, I dishonour, hate, wound, or kill my neighbour, by myself, or by another, but that I lay aside all desire of revenge; also that I hurt not myself, nor willingly expose myself to any danger."

Does your life outwardly conform to the rule of this commandment as here described? Have you never thought about anyone, "I wish you were dead, and just out of my life altogether"? Have you never hotly said to someone, "I hate you!" and even "I'll kill you!" or "you are just a dumb fool!" Literally, the word for fool in Matthew 5:22 is the word from which we get the word, moron. Have you never in anger called someone a moron or some other, and even much worse, term? Did you know how you and I speak to people and speak about people is related to the sixth commandment in God's eyes, according to Jesus, Who speaks nothing but the truth? I read once about a teenage girl who had a real problem with acne on her face, and she overheard one boy say to another as she walked by, "Just put a bag over her head, and she'd be terrific!" Well, not only was that something vile but most killing for that girl in her case, for [it is a true story] it took her years to get over the wound that came with those deadly words. Do you call people names and speak nastily about anyone, or in anger blast away at people with all kinds of hurting insults at school, or at work, or at home? Jesus says wherever and whenever we do, it makes us guilty of murder. Not by man's law perhaps, but His law for sure!

The Heidelberg Catechism mentions murdering by gestures too, and we all know, don't we, about ways to show a murderous heart by various gestures. The expression, "if looks could kill", is something that we all understand, and who listening has not only perhaps sometimes received such looks from others, but also worse, shown such looks? Just by rolling

our eyes to someone else about another person can be a murderous gesture, relating just no good at all about the other person.

But if we will live as Christians by God's law, we must avoid and stay away from all these things that could in any way show or bring hurt or injury to someone else. We may not and should not actually lay our hands on anyone to hurt or wound them either. In saying that, I am not, of course, referring to proper punishment which God calls the authorities that be to give when needed, like parents and police. They are called to administer appropriate punishment for wrongdoings, but in any and every other case I must not dishonour, wound or kill my neighbour by myself or by another. The Heidelberg Catechism expressly mentions how the magistrates are there to enforce the law, and we may not take the law in our own hands ever. Again this does not mean we may not strike in self-defense sometimes, or in a war setting, but can there be any other reason? Is such due obedience to the sixth commandment the way you and I live too? You agree such a thing as spouse beating or physical and verbal abuse of others should not be present in our lives and certainly not as confessing Christians? If you and I would honour Christ as Saviour and Lord, we should live outwardly conforming to the sweeping rule of this commandment.

Yes, also in reference to our own lives and our own bodies. The sixth commandment forbids suicide, where we kill ourselves because we see no other or better solution to our problems. Suicide is always wrong because we may not take our own lives in our hands. Suicide is also wrong for it suggests even God can't help us in our needs, while He calls us to Himself no matter how desperate our needs and how undeserving of His mercy and love we might be, and we will not be put to shame. If anyone listening is struggling with suicidal thoughts, don't keep that to yourself, but talk to someone, and get help. Euthanasia, or so called mercy-killing, is also clearly violation against the sixth commandment. God doesn't forbid the natural course of man come to its end, but He does forbid us actively bringing on someone's death faster to escape pain or sorrow. To pull the plug on a life support system may not be wrong in certain cases, where life is kept going unnaturally and only by a machine, but it is something different and something always wrong to actually give a needle or pill for the purpose of death, except again of course with God-ordained capital punishment. Capital punishment by the justice authorities is not in promotion of disrespect for human life, but in respect for human life. Again modern man today will be wiser than God in refusing to follow His rule that when someone is guilty of murder, then the death penalty is in order. The sanctity of life is such a serious matter in God's eyes. I must mention too yet, in more detail, how abortion is a terrible violation against the sixth commandment of God, "*Thou shalt not kill.*" It is both a tragedy beyond words and a wickedness immeasurable the way abortions have become legalized and approved and