

Sermon Series: The Decalogue

Sermon title: "The 6th Commandment"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

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Introduction.

Murders are on the rise. The USA gets the most publicity for sure due to the recent murders in a supermarket in New York, a hospital in Oklahoma, a Chinese church in Los Angeles and an elementary school in Texas.

People gunned down for no apparent reason.

You might be surprised to know that the USA is not even in the top ten of countries with the highest murder rates.

But murders are on the rise. Why?

Well, there may be many factors.

It might have something to do with the fact that the average kid will view 8000 murders on television by the time they finish primary school.

200,000 by the time they turn 18.

Add video games to that and there's no wonder why we have so many real murders.....we watch murders, we read about murders, we laugh at murders, we commit murders in games.

I dare say we are numb to murders.

But murder isn't anything new.

The first child ever born, murdered his younger brother.

Murders are all over the Bible.

Jesus said, "Satan was a murderer from the beginning."

Lamech the gangster in Genesis 4 bragged about how easily he killed a young man.

Joseph's brothers wanted to murder him but sold him instead.

Moses murdered the Egyptian.

David had Uriah killed.

Peter tried to kill Malchus but only got his ear.

Saul approved of Stephen's murder and served as an accomplice.

Jesus was killed unjustly.

But God says, “**you shall not murder**”.

Why is it so bad and why do so many do it?

What is at the root of it?

Let's pray.

The first thing that we want to see is what exactly does this command mean.

I. What the command means.

This command literally says, “**Don't kill**”.

Does that mean, ‘*Don't kill a bug*’?

‘*Don't kill a cow and eat it*’?

‘Don't fish?’

‘Don't execute a criminal?’

‘Don't kill someone who breaks into your house and is harming your family?’

‘Don't go to war?’

Well, this command, “Don't kill” means this:

The unlawful taking of human life.

Not...the *lawful* taking of life because that is not only allowed but is commanded in the Scriptures.

The same Bible that says, 'Don't kill' in Exodus 20, commands killing in Exodus 21.

Exodus 21:12-14.

Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

This clarifies the difference between '*manslaughter*' and *murder*. Was it planned or was it an accident? Intent is crucial in deciding the case.

You see here that in **Exodus 20** it says, "Don't kill" and in **Exodus 21** it says, "Kill the one who kills."

So, we have some more clarity that the 6th commandment means..."**Do not murder.**"
Do not unlawfully take the life of a person.
This is what the Old Testament law says.

But Jesus has some things to say about murder in the New Testament. He says that what lies behind the act of murder is sinful and wicked too.

II. What Jesus said.

Turn in your Bible to **Matthew 5:21-22**.

21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment, 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!', will be liable to the hell of fire.

Murder doesn't start out (in most cases) as just a random act but begins with the things that Jesus mentions;

- Anger
- Insults
- An attitude toward people from the heart.

III. Why it is so bad.

What is it about murder that make it such a terrible sin against God?

We need to turn to a strange text to find out.

Genesis 9:5-6 takes place when Noah comes out of the Ark.

Moses is writing Genesis later on and tells us there some commentary on WHY murder is so bad.

Genesis 9:5-6

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

Well, what does that mean? How does that help us?
“FOR...God made man in his own image”.

Man is created in the image of God and is created to reflect God's glory and give glory to God.

Think about it, to take someone's life is to take away that person's ability to glorify God in this life.
To silence their voice. To prevent them from singing.
To keep them from praying. To keep them from repenting.

AND it is placing ourselves in the place of God, the Creator, sustainer and Author of life.

It is HIS right and not ours to give and take life and to tell us how and when life should be taken.

This 6th command prohibits murder, abortion of babies, physician assisted suicide, suicide or euthanasia.

You may ask the question:

Is unplugging the ventilator the same as euthanasia?

Terminating treatment isn't the same as terminating life.

But God says, "You shall not kill."

It is not our right to take life. That belongs to God.

IV. Application.

Murder, suicide, euthanasia, abortion are all ultimately about worth and value.

This person has no value. Kill them.

I have no value. I'll kill myself.

This baby has no worth or value. Kill it.

This elderly or sick person has no value. Kill them.

God says, "You shall not kill."

Most of us will never murder with our hands, we may never fulfill the final and ultimate act of killing.... but what about our hearts?

Let's return to the root.

Let's ask whether we see people rightly as made in the image of God.

I am guilty of not seeing people as made in the image of God and need to repent. Maybe you do, too.

How do you and I see people?

Do we value people?

Do we think, 'this person is an idiot, stupid, useless.'

Are we angry with other people easily?

What is it saying when we are?

We are saying, "I am superior than you; or greater worth and value than you are."

"I can't overlook your faults easily. They are many. "

So, what is the answer.

The answer is LOVE.

The opposite of anger, insults and murder is LOVE.

1 John 3:15

Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Paul tells us that as Christians we should see people differently. All people are made in the image of God and have value. Every person is either in need of being a new creation or is a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:16

16 From now on therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

As we soon close, let me speak to the person in the room that feels like you have no value.

John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

The thoughts that you have about having no value or worth are not from God.

Matthew 10:29-31

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Isaiah 41:10

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he have his only Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Lastly, if you or anyone you know has ever committed murder....you should know that it's not the unpardonable sin.

I've met many murderers who have been redeemed when I used to work in a prison.

I used to love to sing hymns with them.

You've never heard such singing.

There is only one unforgivable sin.

It's the rejection of the Holy Spirit calling you to believe in Jesus Christ.

Don't reject Christ.

Don't turn your back to him.

Turn your face to him.