We Love Life

Understanding and Applying the Sixth Commandment

Exodus 20:13

Because every human life bears the image of God, we must not take life unjustly, endanger it carelessly, or attack it with hatred. Instead, we are called to protect, nurture, and promote the flourishing of others.

1. Understand What the Commandment Prohibits

A. What It Does NOT Prohibit

- Self-defense (Ex. 22:2–3)
- Legitimate use of force (Rom. 13:1–4)
- Capital punishment (Gen. 9:5–6)

B. What It DOES Prohibit

- Intentional, unlawful murder (Ex. 20:13)
- Careless endangerment (Deut. 19:4–5)

The Sixth Commandment prohibits both the intentional destruction of life and the negligent disregard for life.

2. Recognize Why Human Life Is Sacred



- Made in the Image of God (Gen. 9:5–6)
- **Life is a Gift from God**
- **Belongs to God Alone**
- **Therefore:** Respect, Protect, and Honor Life

3. Recognize That Murder Begins in the Heart



- Unrighteous Anger & Hatred (Matt. 5:21–26)
- Hurtful Words (James 3:9–10)
- Refusal to Forgive (Matt. 5:23–24)
- Neglect and Carelessness (1 John 3:16–18)

The murderer takes life and destroys relationships. The loving heart builds up.

4. Fulfill the Commandment by Actively Loving Life

A. Protect & Provide



- Feed, clothe, care
- Support families; value unborn life

B. Speak Life



- Build up, encourage
- Avoid needless harm

C. Be a Peacemaker



- Seek reconciliation
- Offer forgiveness

D. Consider Others



- Think ahead
- Treat others as you would like to be treated

5. *Love Others Because God Has First Loved Us*



A. By His Grace

- We have received mercy
- We are loved and forgiven

B. Following Christ's Example

- Lay down our lives for others (1 John 3:16–18)

C. Pursue the Flourishing of Others

- Protect life, provide for needs
- Share the gospel with love
- Cultivate peace and reconciliation

Thou shalt not murder.

Instead, love your neighbor. Protect life. Give life. Pursue peace.