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Number 6:
Exodus
20: 13



You shall not murder.
no murder



At last, one we've all kept! Or....have we.....?

What is murder?

Firstly, what it isn't.....

It isn't just killing. If this commandment said 'You must not kill' then we'd break it everytime we trod on an ant or picked a daisy. And God would be commanding people to break it later in the Bible too....read this:

Jeremiah 50:21 "Attack the land of Merathaim and those who live in Pekod. Pursue, kill and completely destroy them," declares the LORD. "Do everything I have commanded you."

So, when is it ok, or even right to kill someone else? Does the New Testament change things? Suggest some passages which throw light on this (some are given at bottom but think first!!).

Secondly, what murder is, in God's eyes:

Matthew 5:21-24 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'

22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to

judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.

In your own words, describe what Jesus is saying about 'murder' here.

I have a confession to make: I am a murderer. In the past I have murdered many people. I have lost my temper and even hated some people.

Murder is when you want harm to come to someone else.

Murder is when you 'wish they were dead'.

Murder denies the image of God in us...that he loves all and gave up his life to die for them.

Paul wrote.....

1 Corinthians 6:6 - 8 ... one brother goes to law against another--and this in front of

NT passages on killing.....Romans 13:2,3.....Matt 10:34.....Matt 26:52.....

unbelievers!

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

“Why not rather be wronged?”

Can you honestly say that that is your attitude? Someone upsets you, do you

try to punish them by blanking them, talking behind their back, trying to get back at them or do you say to yourself “forget it, it doesn’t matter, I’d rather be wronged”?

Do you put yourself first, or the other person?

The heart of this commandment is to put others first after God and yourself a long way last.



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