



The Ten Commandments

Love, Life and Relationships



RULE: THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

- ▶ Focus on sacredness of human life.
- ▶ Murder first recorded sin after expulsion from Eden (Genesis 4:1-8).
- ▶ Human life is sacred
- ▶ God establishes death penalty for murder (Genesis 9:6).



Sermon on the Mount (Matthew (5-7)).

- Life to be protected
- Love and relationship for which life has been created must also be protected.
- Unkindness
 - breaches this commandment
 - kills and are accountable for it



Matthew 5:21-26

- ▶ You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'
- ▶ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.
- ▶ 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25
- ▶ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.
- ▶ 26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.



Two Main Thoughts

- **Malice**

- A destructive heart toward another.

- Anger, insult and despising (Matt 5:22)

- **Reconciliation**



Anger



- ▶ All anger not forbidden by this commandment. Sometimes anger is justified.

Ephesians 4:26

*"Be angry, and do not sin":
do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*

- ▶ It is not good to suppress or unleash anger.
- ▶ Anger must be
 - ▶ acknowledged and dealt with
 - ▶ faced squarely and resolved in a way that pleases God

Suppressed Anger

➤ Causes

- emotional, spiritual and relationship problems.
- destructive defiling bitterness

Hebrews 12:14-15

*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness,
without which no one will see the Lord;
looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God;
**lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble,
and by this many become defiled;***

- The anger forbidden by this commandment is destructive anger.
 - strikes out without thinking or control
 - The poison of bitterness
 - defiles the one holding it
 - damages all who come in contact with them.



Insult

- ▶ *Raca* was a term of insult.
- ▶ Equivalent of
 - ▶ “you idiot!”
 - ▶ many forms of “knocking each other”
- ▶ Challenges speech that is coarse, brutal, abrasive or cutting
- ▶ Unkind or insulting speech is sin for which God will
 - ▶ accept no excuses
 - ▶ require a reckoning.

Colossians 4:6

*Let your speech always be with grace,
seasoned with salt,
that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*



Despising

- ▶ The act of treating someone
 - ▶ like a fool
 - ▶ as of lesser value
 - ▶ as inferior

because of their sex, race, age, accomplishments, health or the image we want to be associated with.

James 2:8-9

*If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture,
"You shall love your neighbour as yourself,"
you do well;
but if you show partiality,
you commit sin,
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*



Reconciliation

- Constructive and inclusive toward others.
- Care about personal relationship
- Establishes, restores and preserves friendships.
- **Within the Sphere of Fellowship**
 - Being reconciled must take priority over any spiritual service.
- **With Those with whom We Have Come into Conflict**
 - Befriend adversaries
 - Responsibilities toward those who seek our harm.



The Antitheses of Matthew 5:38-39, 43-44

*You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'
But I tell you not to resist an evil person.
But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*

*You have heard that it was said,
'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'
But I say to you, love your enemies,
bless those who curse you,
do good to those who hate you,
and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

Jesus is not saying that we must not protect ourselves or those in our protection. He is pointing out that we must not return kind for kind; any response must be in the spirit of reconciliation as distinct from retaliation.



REASON

- ▶ to cause us to
 - ▶ cease from being defensive which is the result of suspicion in our lives.
 - ▶ unite with God in His care for life and relationships.



REACTION

- Withdrawal
 - Resistance
 - Aggression
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Withdrawal

- Ends and destroys relationships
- Sulky, sullen and incommunicative.
- Moody
- Unwilling listen to counsel.

In many ways like Cain before He killed His brother Abel.

Genesis 4:6

So the LORD said to Cain,

"Why are you angry?

And why has your countenance fallen?



Resistance

- ▶ Stubborn and obstinate
- ▶ Oppositional and defiant
- ▶ Resist anything that challenges their will

Psalm 32:9

*Be not like the horse or mule,
without understanding,
which must be curbed with it and bridle,
else it will not keep with you.*



Aggression

- ▶ Belligerent
- ▶ Quick tempered
- ▶ Self righteous accusation
- ▶ Disqualified from holding office in the Church (1 Timothy 3:2-3).

Titus 1:7

*For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God,
not self-willed,
not quick-tempered,
not given to wine,
not violent, not greedy for money,*



RESULT

- ▶ The result of disobedience to this commandment is that we become alienated in our hearts from others.
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REMEDY

- ▶ Three aspects
 - ▶ **The rod** refers to the hand of God upon us in discipline.
 - ▶ **The revelation** is that aspect of the truth which is in Christ that can set us free in each particular situation.
 - ▶ **The release** is the living freedom that is experienced as the soul is set free to obey.



Rod

- ▶ The consequence of breaking this commandment may be loneliness and alienation.
- ▶ This is as the judgment on Cain, the first man to ever offend against this commandment in the Bible.

Genesis 4:8-13

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"

He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!"



Revelation

- ▶ Jesus never related to others in reaction. He also valued close personal friendships.
- ▶ **1 Peter 2:23**
- ▶ *who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*
- ▶ **John 15:15**
- ▶ *I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing.*
- ▶ What we must see, therefore, to be set free from defensiveness is the value of the lives of others and therefore of relationships as a keystone of fulfillment in our lives.



Release

- ▶ Becoming actively able to include one another in our lives.

Romans 15:5-7

*Now may the God of patience and comfort
grant you to be like-minded toward one another,
according to Christ Jesus,*

*that you may with one mind and one mouth
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Therefore receive one another,
just as Christ also received us,
to the glory of God.*