



Lecture # 2 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 6):

Commandment Six Concerns Man's Life—Never Murder, Exodus 20:13

The Sixth Commandment Sanctity of Human Life

“Lo Tirtzah” (Exodus 20:13) “Thou shalt not murder”

Exodus 20:13 (BHS)

¹³ לֹא תִרְצַח: ם

“Lo Tirtzah”

Exodus 20:13 (KJV)

¹³ “Thou shalt not **kill**.”

Exodus 20:13 (NASB)

¹³ “You shall not **murder**.”

1. (Exodus 20:13) Commandments, The Ten— Murder— Killing: Who is to obey this commandment? How long was this commandment to be in force?

Exodus 20:13 (BHS)

¹³ לֹא תִרְצַח: ם

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Was it only to govern Israel and the ancient world? Was murder—lawlessness and violence—only a problem in the ancient world? The answer is obvious. One of the most terrible social ills down through history has been murder and the lawlessness and violence that surround murder. God gave this commandment to govern civilization, the societies of every generation of man. God gave this commandment to make communities and streets safe, our homes and businesses secure.

Now, who is to keep this commandment: “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13)? **You!** The commandment is forceful; it is directed to **you** personally, to every person upon this earth: “**You shall not murder.**” The motives and emotions that arouse a person to murder—the desires, passions, greed, anger, wrath, revenge—are all to be put down and controlled. **You**—all of us—are responsible to obey this commandment. **You** are to control the anger, passions, and greed of your flesh when they are aroused. **You** are to obey the sixth great commandment of God: “**You shall not murder**” (Exodus 20:13).



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2. (Exodus 20:13) Commandments, The Ten— Man— Murder— Killing— Violence— Lawlessness— Obedience: What is forbidden by this commandment:

Exodus 20:13 (BHS)

¹³ לֹא תִרְצַח: ס

“Lo Tirtzah”

Exodus 20:13 (KJV)

¹³ “Thou shalt not **kill**.”

Exodus 20:13 (NASB)

¹³ “You shall not **murder**.”

“You shall not murder” (**Exodus 20:13**)? How is this commandment broken or violated? Before actually looking at what the commandment forbids, **note why God gave the commandment.**

1. The purpose for this commandment is to preserve life: to teach people the sanctity of human life, that they are to honor and hold human life in the highest esteem. Man is created in the image and likeness of God; therefore, man's life is of infinite value to God (**Genesis 1:26-27**).

Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

²⁶ “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Man is.....

- a. God’s master creation
- b. God’s royal masterpiece
- c. God’s precious possession
- d. God’s priceless property

Why is man to be so highly esteemed? As stated, because man is created in the *image and likeness* of God. God demands that human life be valued above all the wealth in the world (**Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36**).

Matthew 16:26 (NASB)

²⁶ “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mark 8:36 (NASB)

³⁶ “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

The sanctity of human life is to be honored above all else.



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Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

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²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 9:5-7 (NASB)

⁵ “Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

⁷ As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”

Matthew 16:26 (NASB)

²⁶ “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Mark 8:36 (NASB)

³⁶ “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”

2. Now, what is forbidden by this commandment: “You shall not murder” ([Exodus 20:13](#))? The Hebrew word for *kill* or *killing* (*rasah*) means “premeditated, planned, deliberate, intentional, unauthorized murder.”

Exodus 20:13 (BHS)

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This commandment is broken either by a planned murderous attack upon a person(s) or by a rash, reckless attack.

This commandment forbids the taking of a life because a person is.....

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. angry | g. passionate |
| b. bitter | h. vengeful |
| c. violent | i. selfish |
| d. uncontrolled | j. stealing |
| e. lusting | k. rebelling |
| f. coveting | |



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Murder for such reasons as these is wrong and must always be counted wrong. This is the only way to make our community, society, and civilization safe and secure. The terrifying evils of this earth—lawlessness, violence, and murder—must not be allowed. We must always agree with God's Holy Word: murder for such reasons as anger, robbery, and violence must always be counted wrong and be punished.

But there are also other forms of murder that are just as wrong as lifting one's own hand to kill another person.