



Lecture # 3 Part 1

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: ׀

“Lo Tirtzah”

Exodus 20:13 (KJV)

¹³ “Thou shalt not **kill**.”

Exodus 20:13 (NASB)

¹³ “You shall not **murder**.”

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)

¹³ לֹא תִרְצַח: ׀

“Lo Tirtzah”

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¹³ “You shall not **murder**.”

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 | |

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.



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

All over the world, there are people who commit murder.....

- a. by forcing people to work in conditions that will injure or eventually kill them, that lead to their premature death
- b. by forcing people to live in horrible conditions, so horrible that the environment or lack of basic necessities eventually kills them
- c. by selling and hooking people on drugs, drugs that eventually enslave and kill the addicts

Man must control and punish the lawless, the violent, and the murderers who roam his streets and in many cases sit in the plush offices of authority and rule. Evil men must be stopped and taught to obey this commandment or else our civilization can never survive. Lawlessness, violence, and murder must be stamped out. We can have safe streets and parks, unlocked doors, and the freedom to move about at night only if we obey this commandment. We will have a satisfying and fruitful life only if we heed this commandment: **“You shall not murder [live lawless and violent lives]”** ([Exodus 20:13](#)).

But even the above are not the only kinds of murder forbidden by God. The spirit of lawlessness, violence, and murder so sweep through the societies and history of man that at least two other types of murder need to be discussed. (See [Deeper Study # 1, Abortion—Exodus 20:13](#) ; [Deeper Study # 2, Suicide—Exodus 20:13](#)).

3. Note this fact: this commandment is not a blanket commandment against all killing. God's Word clearly says that the taking of life is justified, understandable, and allowed.....

- a. as capital punishment ([Genesis 9:6](#))
[Genesis 9:6 \(NASB\)](#)
⁶“Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”
- b. in a justified war ([Deut. 13:15](#); [1 Samuel 15:3](#); [2 Samuel 10:1](#))
[Deuteronomy 13:15 \(NASB\)](#)
¹⁵“You shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it and all that is in it and its cattle with the edge of the sword.”
[1 Samuel 15:3 \(NASB\)](#)
³“Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”



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2 Samuel 10:1 (NASB)

¹“Now it happened afterwards that the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son became king in his place.”

- c. in cases of adultery ([Leviticus 20:10](#)).

Leviticus 20:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”

This may seem harsh to society today, but this commandment and penalty were given to protect and preserve the family. The very survival of Israel depended upon the family being preserved as the basic unit of society. Loyalty to the family taught the Israelites to be loyal to the nation as a whole.

- d. in the defense of ourselves, for example, when a thief breaks into our home ([Exodus 22:2](#))

Exodus 22:2 (NASB)

²“If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account.”

- e. in accidental killing ([Deuteronomy 19:5](#))

Deuteronomy 19:5 (NASB)

⁵“As when *a man* goes into the forest with his friend to cut wood, and his hand swings the axe to cut down the tree, and the iron *head* slips off the handle and strikes his friend so that he dies—he may flee to one of these cities and live.”

- f. in killing animals for food ([Genesis 9:3](#))

Genesis 9:3 (NASB)

³“Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as *I gave* the green plant.”