

**I John 3,4; Lord's Day 40**  
**LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR'S PERSON**

- I. The sin forbidden.
  - A. To kill is to take a life without having the authority to do so.
    - 1. Life is a gift of God (Deut. 32:39).
    - 2. The fall into sin brought death as God's just and angry punishment of sin (the opposite of life).
    - 3. Thus anyone who kills another is destroying the picture (whether regenerated or not), and thus deserves death (Gen. 9:6).
  - B. What is included in killing?
    - 1. To plot another's death, to consent to another's death, not to stop a killing when it is in our power to do so.
    - 2. We are guilty of killing even when it is "accidental" (Num. 35; Deut. 19), or through negligence (Ex. 21:29,30).
    - 3. This includes killing a soul - by enticing one into sin, by causing one to sin against his conscience, by not warning the wicked of their wicked way (Ezek. 3:18), or by starving a soul spiritually.
    - 4. This command teaches us that God judges to be murder all that leads to killing: envy, hatred, anger, desire of revenge.
  - C. Murder touches God in three ways.
  - D. God commands capital punishment to show the seriousness of this sin (Gen. 9:5,6; Ex. 21:12).
- II. God demands that we love our neighbor, i.e., that we preserve his life in love.
  - A. Love for the neighbor and brother is a calling (not an option) arising out of gratitude for His love.
    - 1. We may not say that we can't (it is impossible for the unregenerate).
    - 2. The difficulty arises from our thinking more of our neighbor than of God.
  - B. The pattern for our love is God's love (Matt. 5:43ff., Eph. 5:1,2).
    - 1. This love is a positive action, binding wounds, paying, being patient, gentle, kind (useful), loving mercy.
    - 2. We are called to show "pity" (mercy) to those God puts in our path (37), not just refrain from killing him.
  - C. Use self-control (temperance) to restrain and control our anger (Prov. 13:10).
  - D. Seek to pattern your love after God's love, and seek to resemble Him Who does good to all (Matt. 5:45).