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**Friday, June 10, 2022 ▫ Read Exodus 20:13**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What does this verse prohibit?*

**What is the most basic requirement for honoring God in our interactions with others?** Exodus 20:13 looks forward to the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that valuing God in others means especially valuing man as made in the image of God.

In the first five commandments, the primary interaction was with God. Even in the fifth, the honor/glory/weightiness was primarily God's, with father and mother as surrogate authorities under Him. Now, as the moral law turns from loving God with all the heart to loving our neighbor, the first thing that it highlights is a proper valuing of God's image in man.

It was obvious, when Cain murdered Abel in Genesis 4, that it was wicked. Genesis 1 had emphasized that man is made in the image of God, and God had warned Cain that sin was crouching at his door, desiring to control him (cf. Gen 4:7).

But the logic prohibiting murder is explicitly detailed in Gen 9:6, "Whoever sheds man's blood by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." There, God Himself makes a distinction between that killing that despises the image of God (murder) and that killing that justly vindicates the image of God (by man his blood shall be shed).

There are many words for killing in Hebrew, and this one has the shade of meaning of striking down or assassination. This is important not only because it highlights the component of intent and premeditation but also because, as we have seen in other commandments, its focus is especially on the heart. Our Lord Jesus's own expounding upon this was that rash anger, name-calling, and lashing out are all worthy of condemnation (cf. Mat 5:22).

Combining these two, we see that we are not just to treat people as made in the image of God, but we are to love God, to love God's image, to love that He made people in His image, and to love from our hearts His image in those people.

When that is the case, both with ourselves and others, we become diligent and zealous for the preservation of life and dignity. We treat others and ourselves with respect. We take care of our health. We bear patiently with others and exercise gentleness and compassion, refusing all strife or bitterness. Indeed, when others are mistreated, we defend and protect them. And all of this not primarily to feel good about ourselves or make others feel good about themselves or about us, but to respond rightly to the infinite value of God Himself.

In all of this, the regard is first for the Lord. No one actually keeps this commandment apart from knowledge of Him and love for Him. And so the place for us to begin is with fostering love for Him by His Word and meditation upon His love for us (cf. 1Jo 4:19). We dare not trust ourselves to think of or interact rightly with others until our hearts have been set right by love for Him.

**What people do you have a difficult time loving well? What truth about them will help you? What interaction with God will help you? What must be recovered in our culture for life to be valued properly?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for making us in Your own image. Forgive us for failing to value Your image will either in ourselves or in others. Thank You for valuing us infinitely and eternally in Christ. Grant that we would imitate you in this, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP5B "Listen to My Words, O Lord" or TPH174 "The Ten Commandments"**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Exodus chapter 20 verse 13. These are the words of God, You shall not murder. The sense this reading of God's inspired and inherent word in the first four commandments deals with acting upon God. Directly himself. Not having any other gods before. Yahweh are God worshiping only in the way that he has said to worship.

Because he is always our God, a jealous God been careful, how we bear his name on our life or on our lips because it is the name of Yahweh. Our God and remembering and hallowing the Sabbath because it is the Sabbath that we always our God. And then in the fifth commandment, we don't act upon him directly, but we do act upon his ambassador, his representative all authority comes from God.

And so still, there's that covenantal. You always your God is giving you this land and his means of blessing to us and ministering his goodness. His glory has authority to us, as in those authorities that we are to honor that we are to treat as weighty and glorious. Even remember in verse 12, honor your father and your mother, but now we definitely switch over.

From loving the Lord. Our God with all our hearts on my strength to loving our neighbor as ourselves. And yet the Lord himself is still behind how we treat our neighbor. You shall not murder. The very first thing in how to treat our neighbors, to remember that he is made in the image of God.

The the prohibition against murder in the penalty for murder is given already and Genesis chapter 9. But even before that, you remember the first murder in Genesis chapter 4, which happened because Cain did not worship God by faith, and not offer a sacrifice, that was from faith, according to God's revelation, but according to his own imagination, and when God confronted him about it, he told him sin is crouching at your door that a desires to master you.

And so when we see Cain murder Abel, we know that sin has mastered him. He has attacked and murdered struck down to use what this word means in verse 13. Here he has struck down one who has made in the image of God. And so, when you get to Genesis chapter 9, you get the explanation for why murder is wrong.

Whoever sheds man's blood by man, his blood shall be shed for in the image of God. He made, man, The reason murder is wrong is not primarily because it is destructive to society, although it is very destructive to society. The reason murder is wrong. Does not because it's unjust towards others.

Although it is unjust towards others, the primary the great reason murder is wrong is because it is an attack upon the Lord Himself. When I was a kid, they used to sometimes have broadcast. The used to sometimes broadcast pictures from Iran on the news and they'd be marching around with great big posters of Ronald Reagan, and they would set them on fire and slash them with swords and shoot them up and stuff like that.

They couldn't actually kill Reagan, but they expressed their murder against him upon his image. This is what we do when we are hateful, orbiter, or rationally, angry or despise with pointless, name, calling, like, Raqqa or lash out at someone like you fool. These are old Jesus's descriptions of committing murder in the heart.

And this murder in the heart isn't just against the person, it is a disregarding of the image of God in the person. That's why I murder is wrong. That's why in order to keep the second Great Commandment. In order to do the positive thing the counterpart to that which is being forbidden here to love your neighbor as yourself and the only, right?

And proper way to do that is if you love the one true and living God, if you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and recognize Him as God, the Creator and of repented from your sin and turned to Him. And that it is out of love for him and love for God and his image in man that you This is out of that that you are loving others and serving them and considering it worthwhile to pursue what is good for them because they are made in his image.

So we are not just made to we are not just to treat people as made in the image of God. But we are to love God to love, God's image to value that. He is the one who decided to make people in his image and it's in his prominence that they fell.

So we're not to stop admiring or responding to the wisdom of God just because they sinned and to love from our hearts his image in those people. Now it's important to see the difference and between the word here that is translated murder correctly. In the New King James, I think it was translated kill in the authorized version the old King James, but but there are many Hebrew words for killing and the common word for kill is just a word that means to cause to die.

And it's actually what Genesis 9 requires us to do to a man who commits murder. This word here is a word that means to strike down. It has connotations of not just hatred and malice. Okay, so intending evil. But premeditation that that what is perpetrated upon the person is a smiting, a striking the intent to to kill them out of out of opposition and hostility.

So you shall not murder. Now, you and I in order to obey the commandment well, we can't just say, well, I haven't murdered anyone or we can't just try to be neutral because if the issue is the image of God in someone else and you actually have to care about them being heartless towards people in different about their spiritual condition, especially having fallen and fallen short of the glory of God.

And now under wrath for despising God's glory having sympathy towards their spiritual condition, is one of the great requirements of the six. Commandment. Maybe even the greatest requirement of the six. Commandment Evangelism is as it were self-defense or neighbor defense. People who talk about murder and the right way of thinking about this commandment and well, we can kill and self-defense, right?

Yes. Well, if in order to prevent someone else from harming you and especially from harming someone else, you have to kill them, then yes, it's right to kill them but we must remember that the duty of the commandment involves love. And that one of the things that our neighbor most needs is not defense from men, but defense from God, defense from his guilt before, God defense from what the, right wrath of God would do to him.

And so the sixth commandment actually requires evangelism or at least prayer, for the conversion of our neighbor that it would matter to us. That this person in the image of God made in the image of God, who is near us is in danger of hell. And then looking for asking, God for looking for opportunity to speak the truth, the wonderful truth about Christ to them.

So there's a lot more going on than it first. Seems when you read you shall not murder. Certainly, we shall not murder. But when we start to understand, why should we not murder? Then the, the meaning of the commandment really opens up to us, and you can see how Jesus when he was correcting the Pharisees

view of morality in Matthew chapter 5 started explaining that they had not even scratched the surface of what God's righteousness requires.

And of course, the reason they wouldn't want to scratch the surfaces because if you scratch the surface, then you've already failed because we can't stand up to this requirement, We ought to be very convicted about how loveless and in different, we are towards others, but Christ wasn't he was perfectly righteous.

And in Him we are counted as if we had rendered the same obedience from the same heart as he is and even better. Well maybe not better but in even better than if it were just that. That's what I mean. But I say, even better his spirit, He gave us a spirit to start making us to be like him, so that we will love and not just for earthly welfare of others.

But especially there. You turn on welfare. Well, let's ask the Lord to stir up, our love for him by making a see his love for us, so that we love him because he first loved us. And then loving him will be how we're enabled to love others who are made in his image because they're made in his image.

If we want to value his image and others, Then we need to love him. And that's the most horrible thing about being loveless towards others is an exposes that we're really not very loving toward the Lord who made them in his image. Let's pray. Father, this one was hard for us because we have so often had despising nasty thoughts and inclinations towards people.

We're easily, embittered, and hostile. And despising and the oppositional means spirited So help us forgive us, make us to remember O Lord that people are made in your image and make us to remember your love for us so that we would be full of love to you. So that your image in them would make a world of difference to us help us O Lord, to love our neighbor, especially in the area of evangelism.

But in every way we pray that you'd make us to love our neighbor for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen.