

## ***The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment***

**Exodus 20:13**

**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 40**

**July 13, 2014**

### Main Point:

All people are made in the image of God; therefore, instead of unlawfully killing them in any way, love them and seek to preserve their lives, as Jesus did for you.

1. All acts of unlawful killing are forbidden by the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment.
2. All the roots of unlawful killing, and their expressions, are also forbidden by the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment.
3. Instead, God wants you to love others and seek to preserve their lives.
4. God wants you to love others and seek to preserve their lives because all people are made in His image.
5. You can love others and seek to preserve their lives, because that's what Jesus did for you when He was on earth.

**HC 105 Q.** What is God's will for you in the Sixth Commandment? A. I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor – not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds – and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

**HC 106 Q.** Does this commandment refer only to killing? A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that He hates the root of murder: envy, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are murder.

**HC 107 Q.** Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way? A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly to them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

**Exodus 22:2** <sup>2</sup> "If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, *there shall be* no guilt for his bloodshed. (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** "A war is just only if it is waged by a legitimate government; for a worthy cause; with force proportional to the attack; against men who are soldiers, not civilians; when all other means of resolution have failed."

**Genesis 9:6** <sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. (NKJV)

**Romans 13:3-4** <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. <sup>4</sup> For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to *execute* wrath on him who practices evil. (NKJV)

**Genesis 9:3a** <sup>3</sup> "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you ... (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** "What the commandment forbids is not killing, but the unlawful killing of a human being."

**Philip Ryken** "Envy in the biblical sense is not simply the desire to have what someone else has, but to take it away from them so that they are harmed in the process."

**Psalms 4:4a** <sup>4</sup> Be angry, and do not sin ... (NKJV)

**Matthew 5:21-22a** <sup>21</sup> "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.' <sup>22</sup> "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment ... (NKJV)

**Ephesians 4:31-32** <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

**Deuteronomy 22:8** <sup>8</sup> "When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it. (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** "The purpose of having an army is not to kill people, but to keep the country's citizens safe. The same life-preserving principle even holds true for capital punishment. The execution of a murderer stops them from killing again and deters other would-be criminals from doing the same."

**Psalms 82:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. <sup>4</sup> Deliver the poor and needy; Free *them* from the hand of the wicked. (NKJV)

**Proverbs 24:11** <sup>11</sup> Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. (ESV)

**Philip Ryken** "It is precisely because life is precious that someone who takes it unlawfully must be put to death. What makes life so precious is that every human being is made in God's image."

**Genesis 1:26-27** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NKJV)

**Kevin DeYoung** "You don't tackle the players wearing your same jersey, and you don't kill the person who wears the same image of God."

**Galatians 5:19-21** <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (NKJV)

**Isaiah 53:7** <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. (NKJV)

**1 Peter 2:23** <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (ESV)