

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A105-107 – Stop Murdering

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: To the world today, life is quite cheap.

Religious terrorists don't mind killing themselves to murder a few innocent people.

Nations are no different. Before 1989, murders in South Africa averaged about 200 per year. Now South Africans murder 25,000 times each year.

The US government is responsible for the killing of more than 60,000,000 babies since 1973.

And look at the fight recently when there were limitations to killing. One even tried to kill a Supreme Court Justice so women could have the right to kill their babies.

Communists in the last century slaughtered over 100,000,000 people, seeing them as standing in the way of a better life.

People like Mao and Pol Pot sacrificed the people of the country areas for the “glorious revolution.”

We experience these situations because men have rejected God's law against murder.

Either men think God's law is old-fashioned, or they are in direct rebellion against the God of heaven and earth. So today, hear God's teaching on murder.

Our headings are:

Prohibitions of the Law 6

Prescriptions of Law 6

Our goals are: That you will guard your hearts with God's Word and Spirit so **you don't contribute to the unlawful taking of human life,** and **that you might labor to protect life and honor Christ your Creator and Re-Creator.**

Prohibitions of Law 6

105 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US 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.

106 Q. DOES THIS COMMANDMENT REFER ONLY TO KILLING?

A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates **the root of murder**: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are murder.

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 neighbor** as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly to him, to protect him from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

1. Do not have uncontrolled anger, envy, grudges, bitterness, or the desire for personal revenge in your heart.

Murder often starts a long time before there is a dead body. Murder starts in the heart. Hate is the root of murder. (This is why "hate crimes" are a really dumb idea. Crimes are based on hate.)

1John 3:15 Whoever **hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Leviticus 19: 17 'You shall **not hate your brother in your heart**. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 'You shall not take vengeance, **nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Jacob's sons had uncontrolled anger in the heart and it caused them to plot a bloody revenge against Shechem for seducing their sister. They killed all the innocent men of the city.

Genesis 34:25 Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city **and killed all the males**.

2. Do not insult or provoke others (using words) for this too can lead to murder.

Matthew 5: 21 ... And whoever **says to his brother, 'Raca!'** shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

No physician can heal wounds caused by the tongue. More specifically:

God prohibits you from lying under oath. If you lie, it can lead to murder. Wasn't it David's words that killed Uriah? **His words were like a club!!!**

Murder by pen!

2Samuel 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that **he may be struck down and die.**" **9** 'Why have you despised the command of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? **You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword;** you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

God prohibits deception, like teachers who tell children it is **okay to commit adultery** or to spy on their parents... or tell them a **baby is just a piece of tissue**...or that being **transgendered is noble** and cool! These false words can come from pastors too.

3. Do not unlawfully take human life or unlawfully injure someone.

Romans 12:19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

King David, though he had opportunity to kill King Saul who was trying to kill him, knew that if he killed Saul, **he would have been guilty of murder.** **He had no legal right to kill.** More specifically, he had no moral right to kill.

So **don't attack and kill an idolater, abortionist,** etc., because that would be unlawful.

God **forbids the killing of children in the womb.** And make no mistake about it, even the tiniest baby in the womb is an unborn child. He might not even yet look like a child, but he is one! (The FB meme of 2 cute kids to oppose abortions...but what if the kids were ugly, would it matter?)

Exodus 21: 22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly...23 "But if any harm follows, **then you shall give life for life,**

Luke 1:15 - "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. **He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit,** even from his mother's womb.

God never fills tissue with his Holy Spirit. And again...

Jeremiah 1: 4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; **Before you were born I sanctified you**; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

To show the seriousness of protecting life, **God ordained the execution of those who murdered the innocent.**

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."

4. While I can't give you an exhaustive list, here are some other examples of things God forbids with regard to the issues of life:

God forbids withdrawing the available necessary means of preserving life – starving someone to death. Euthanasia is murder. Those who make laws to support this are guilty of murder in God's eyes and they will have to stand before him in judgment. It doesn't matter **if people think euthanasia** is a gentle way to die or if euthanasia promotes "death with dignity." If you help to murder (and protect murderers), you are a murderer in God's eyes. **God didn't ask for your opinion.**

God forbids exposing children and the elderly to danger.

God forbids immoderate eating – over eating. Many diseases which lead to death start with immoderate eating.

God forbids **immoderate working** – over working.

God forbids **laziness** – refusing to work or exercise. This is a common reason for death.

God forbids **reckless driving where you could kill yourself or others.**

God forbids **promiscuity which often leads to murder through disease and guilt.**

God forbids **getting into bad company-gangs-** which can lead to injury or death for yourself or others.

God forbids **oppressing others,** for that may cause their death...like in slavery.

God forbids **suicide-self-murder.** Your body and soul belong to God, not to you.

God forbids **the misuse of drugs** that often lead to sickness and death. US lose 25,000 to Fentanyl yearly.

Prescriptions of Law 6

1. Love your fellow men from the heart; love is the antidote for animosity.

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor...**

When you remember all men were made in the image of God it is easier to love them.

2. Speak kind words...words that heal...words that protect life, liberty, and property.

Whether it is in court, at the job, in church, or at home, **use words to show and express love.**

Speak up if you see someone contributing to murder.

Report a drunk driver to protect life.

Talk to a covenant child (or his parents) if you see him doing something dangerous...or living a sinful lifestyle.

This will help to protect life. (**You promised that today!**) You are your brother's keeper.

Leviticus 19: 17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke your neighbor**, and not bear sin because of him.

There are times when you cannot avoid conflict and **rebukes are necessary.** *Ignoring sin is a lack of love.*

Call on those who have sinned to repent. Repentance protects life.

Encourage the weak and depressed. This means you must know the Scriptures.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, **Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.**

Defend the weak... Speak to your Member of Parliament to protect life. Defend the orphan, immigrant, and the widow.

Learn and practice forgiveness and repentance. Doing this restores relationships

and promotes the protection of life.

Matthew 18:35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

3. Let pro-life actions flow from your hands.

Eat good foods, as you can reasonably afford. **Exercise**. **Sleep properly**. Have a **peaceful life**. **Marry right**, for this can affect how you live and how long you live.

Help each other. **Walk away from sinful situations**. Be **longsuffering** with those who are experiencing difficulties. Be **ready to be reconciled** with those with whom you have a falling-out.

Matthew 5: 23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

To be pro-life means you have to be pro-active.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Prevent murder by offering help to a mother who is unable to care for her child...or offer to baby-sit...or offer to adopt that child. Open your home to an unwed mother so she can have and care for her baby.

Help those who are sickly or in pain. Visit them. Talk to them. When they have a stronger reason for living, they won't lose hope and kill themselves.

4. Support public justice, like the lawful, careful, and swift execution of murderers.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

A country that would not execute those who should be executed brings judgment on itself. **It has blood on its hands.** Execution is a deterrent for murder, especially for the murderer. Contempt of God!

Ever seen a dead man murder?

5. Be involved in just war, if necessary, to protect the innocent.

Love your family enough that you are willing to fight, kill for, and if necessary, die for them.

6. Defend yourself, even killing those who attack you, so you can fulfill your duties to your family.

Contrary to some opinions, **God does not require that you take injury.** Take insult – like a slap? Yes. Take injury? No. You must love God and your family enough that you fight to protect your life.

Conclusion:

You must not murder. You must be pro-life. God's image is in man. So think of things that would promote life. Clear your heart of hate, envy, greed, and bitterness. Speak words that encourage, build up, and defend life. Be willing to give up money, time, and energies for the sake of life.

Brothers and Sisters:

1. It is easy to hate –which is the root of murder. It is easy to speak evil of those you don't like. It is not hard to even murder. But God commands you to love.

When you find it difficult to love and easy to hate and be envious, greedy, and bitter, and when you develop a desire to hurt someone, ask God to take you back to the cross so that you can see what your sins deserved and you can be refreshed with true love for others. See the nail scars in Jesus' hands. You will never be the same!

2. Then equipped with Christ's Word and Spirit, fight to please the Lord, the one who paid your ransom.

3. How do you fight? Desire, speak, and work to protect life.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, know your life does not belong to you. You have to live for God. But you can't by yourself. I therefore plead with you to plead to the Father to count Christ's life and death as yours, or you will have to die for your own sins in eternity in hell.