**SIXTH COMMANMENT**

*You shall not murder.*

Exodus 20:13

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with the five- and six-year-old kids in her class. After explaining the commandment to “Honor your father and mother,” she asked,

“Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.” One boy in the back of the class, who was the oldest

child in his family, said, “**Thou shall not kill**.”

The man who gunned down seven co-workers in suburban Boston just before Christmas in 2000 had recently admonished someone on and internet forum, saying, “Thou shalt not kill.”

Michael McDermott, who police say blasted through the offices

of Edgewater Technology, where he was employed as a software tester, apparently had frequented internet forums and given advice on explosives.

In one exchange, he responded to someone who was trying to help protect Christians in Indonesian and wanted advice on buying or building land mines. “It would seem that some Christians have

forgotten the Sixth Commandment. It is hard to imagine Jesus’ resorting to land mines,’ McDermott had written.

**Because we have a sinful nature it is easy to say the right thing,**

**but not to be able to control ourself to do the right thing.**

**Relationships with others**

A.W. Pink – “In the first five Commandments we have seen how God safeguarded his own glory; in the second five we see how

he provides for the security and well-being of man.”

**God is the author and giver of life and therefore**

**only he is allowed to end the life he created.**

Genesis 1:27 *God made man in his own image . . .*

*male and female he created them*.

Psalm 139:13 *You formed my inward parts; you knitted*

*me together in my mother’s womb*.

Job 10:12 NIV – *You gave me life and showed me kindness*

*and in your providence watched over my spirit*.

Clark – “You brought me from mother’s womb,

by your mercy have provided for me and by

your continual care have persevered my life.”

**FIRST MURDER**

Murder is the first sin which is committed after Adam and Eve sinned and their sin nature was passed to their children.

Genesis 4:8 *When Cain and Abel were in the field,*

*Cain rose up against his brother and killed him*.

Cain was jealous that his brother Abel’s sacrifice was accepted

by God and his was not. The result was that he became angry.

I John 3:12 *Why did Cain murder his brother? Because*

*his own deeds were evil and his brothers righteous*.

**Negative commandments**

The last five commandments, which are our relationship to others, are stated in the negative because people naturally commit them.

**DO NOT MURDER**

*Murder* (KJB *kill*) – Heb. *to take someone’s life*.

The word is also translated *manslayer* (Num. 35:11,12).

Note: the word is translated *murder* in all other translations:

NKJ, NIV, NAS, ESV because that is the meaning of the word.

It is translated *murder* in the KJB other times (Num. 35:17,18,

19,30,31; Job 24:14; Ps. 94:6; Isa. 1:21; Jer. 7:9).

Thomas Watson – “Life is the most precious thing; and God

has set this commandment as a fence about it, to preserve it.

He made a statute which has never to this day been repealed.”

Psalm 139:13 *You knitted me together in my mother’s womb*.

:16 *in your book were written, every one of them,*

*the days that were formed for me.*

**This command does not mean that war is wrong**.

1. This command is addressed to individuals, not the state,

like all of the Ten Commandments.

2. It is condemning the intentional taking of someone’s life

by your own hands out of anger, jealously or hatred.

3. God commanded the Israelites to kill the pagan people

who were living in the Promised Land (Joshua 6:17).

**PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER**

Genesis 9:5-6 *For your lifeblood I will require a reckoning . . .*

*I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds*

*the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed,*

*for God made man in his own image.*

Exodus 21:12-14 A murderer was to be put to death.

*Willfully* (KJB *presumptuously*) – Heb. *to plan or prepare.*

Genesis 25:29 *Jacob prepared the soup*.

*Cunning* (KJB *guile*) – Heb. *deceitful.*

Joshua 9:4-5 Gibeonites deliberately deceived Joshua.

**People commit murder through deceit or in secret**

**or under the cover of darkness because:**

1. They consciously know it is wrong to kill another person.

2. They do not want to get caught.

3. They know the other person will fight to save their life.

4. They will be punished for killing.

**Personal act**

1. II Sam. 3:27 *Joab took Abner aside to speak to him privately and stabbed him in the stomach.*

2. II Sam. 4:5-7 *Rechab and Baanah came into the house of*

*Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest. They came*

*into the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him*

*in the stomach . . . and beheaded him.*

**Murder plot**

1. II Sam. 11:15-17 *David wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down and die.” Some of the men fell and Uriah also died.*

2. I Kings 21:8-10 Jezebel wrote a letter to have two witnesses claim that Naboth had cursed God and the King. Then they could take him out and stone him to death in order to take his vineyard.

**How people commit murder**

Numbers 35:16-21 If someone hit another person with an object and they died they were guilty of murder. Reasons for murder

in :20 *out of hatred* (anger) . . . *lying in wait* (premeditated).

Punishment for murder was death on the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses without exception because life is precious (:30-31).

No ransom was to be substituted for the life of a murderer.

*Ransom* (KJB *satisfaction*) – Heb. *the* *price paid to save a life*.

There was no sacrifice that could be offered for the sin of murder.

After David had Uriah killed in battle to cover up his adultery

with his wife Bathsheba he confessed his sin to God.

Psalm 51:16 *You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;*

*you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.*

**Application**

Pink – This commandment is not restricted to forbidding the actual crime of murder. It also prohibits all the degrees and causes of murder, such as rash anger and hatred, slanders and revenge and whatever else may prejudice the safety of our neighbor or tempt us to see him perish when it is in our power to relive and rescue him.”

**DO NOT KILL YOURSELF**

Suicide comes from the Latin *sui* of himself and *caedo* to kill meaning to kill oneself. Suicide is self-murder or taking your

own life which is done out of desperation and hopelessness.

* They feel that the pain they experience now is more than they can bear.
* They see no hope for the future so they believe it is better to end their life now.

1. Saul felt he would be abused and killed by the Philistines

I Samuel 31:3-4 *Saul was badly wounded. Then he said to his armorbearer, “Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through and mistreat me me.” But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell on it.*

2. Judas felt guilty for betraying Jesus and there was nothing

which he could do to change the situation.

Matthew 27:3,5 *When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that he*

*was condemned to death changed his mind and brought back*

*the 30 pieces of silver . . . and he went out and hanged himself.*

In the book, Pilgrims Progress, Hopeful says, “He who kills another can only commit murder upon a body; but for someone

to kill himself is to kill body and soul at the same time.”

**CAUSES OF MURDER**

**1. Anger**

Matthew 5:21-22 *You have heard that it was said to those of old,*

*“You shall not murder, and whoever murders, will be liable to judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with*

*his brother will be liable to judgment.*

Watson – “Anger boils in the veins, and often produces murder.”

Genesis 4:5 Cain was very angry that his offering to the Lord was not accepted and acted out of anger and killed his brother.

Genesis 49:6 Simeon and Levi acted out of anger because their sister had been violated and killed all the men in Shechem.

**2. Envy**

Genesis 37:20 Joseph’s brothers were envious of him because of his dreams and favoritism of their father and decided to kill him. Watson – “Envy begins with discontentment against God

and ends in injury against man.”

**3. Revenge**

Deuteronomy 32:35 quoted in Romans 12:19

*Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord*.

Watson – “If he has done you wrong, the law is open. Because

he wronged you, will you therefore wrong God? You would undertake to revenge yourself; would be plaintiff, and judge,

and executioner, in yourself. This is a great wrong done to God,

and he will not hold you guiltless.”

**CONCLUSION**

*I love you with the love of the Lord.*

*Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.*

*I can see in you the glory of my King,*

*And I love you with the love of the Lord.*

*We are one in the bond of love,*

*We are one in the bond of love,*

*We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God,*

*We are one in the bond of love.*

**PRAYER**

The prayer, *Christian Love*, in the Valley of Vision:

O Lover of the loveless,

It is thy will that I should love thee

with heart, soul, mind, strength,

and my neighbor as myself.

But I am not sufficient for these things.

There is by nature no pure love in my soul . . .

May thy Spirit draw me nearer to thee and thy ways . . .

Order all my ways by thy holy Word

and make thy commandments the joy of my heart . . .

May I grow in thy love and manifest it to mankind.

Spirit of love, make me like the loving Jesus;

give me his benevolent temper,

his beneficent actions.

that I may shine before men to thy glory.