

Law 6: Live and Let Live

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL KILLING

Murder is what the sixth commandment mainly has in mind: the premeditated taking of an innocent life, the deliberate killing of a personal enemy. Perhaps the best translation is, "You shall not kill unlawfully."

WHEN IS KILLING LAWFUL?

- * One such situation is self-defense, the protection of one's self and one's family from violent attack.
- * We may also kill in the defense of our nation.
- * The execution of a death sentence.

WHAT MAKES SOME FORMS OF KILLING LAWFUL?

Killing is lawful when the goal is not the destruction of life, but its preservation.

THE UNSANCTITY OF LIFE

- * We are now living in a "culture of death."
- * We are living in a violent world.
- * We are living in a world that encourages non-violent murder.

MURDER OF THE HEART

- * 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.
- * Hatred is a settled resentment, a permanent and vindictive grudge, the desire to get back at someone.
- * Anger is an even more sudden and more violent passion.
- * Revenge is the desire to inflict hurt or harm to someone in retaliation for what was done to you.
- * We also break the sixth commandment with our words.

Christ fulfilled this commandment and is our example.

1 Peter 2:21–25

²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.