

GOD'S GUIDE TO A GREAT LIFE
Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT MURDER

Exodus 20:13

God is the author and authority over all life, thus He alone reserves the absolute right to give and take life and even command to take life. When others go ahead of God to take life with malice aforethought and without God's express approval, this is murder. He expressly commands to not murder. As a God of justice, God has instituted judicial means for dealing with those who've committed murder. However, for Christians not only is murder expressly forbidden, but also motives and behaviors that may lead to or go along with murder. The essence behind the command to not murder is to love others. Loving others contributes to peace and reconciliation in all human relationships.

I. God is the author of life and man's life is sacred.

- A. God created man in His image. Gen. 1:26, 27
- B. God breathed life into man. Gen 2:7
- C. God gave humanity the authority to kill and eat other forms of life (Genesis 9:3), the murdering of other human beings is expressly forbidden, with the penalty being death. Gen 9:6

II. Sin produces enmity and malice.

- A. Sin enters the world and enmity between God and man is created. Romans 8:7
- B. Sin creates malice between men as well. Malice is a deliberate attempt to harm another person. The example of Cain. Gen. 4:3-16, The example of David; 2 Sam. 11:1-12:25

III. The Command to Not Murder given.

- A. The Sixth Commandment: Do not murder. Exodus 20:13 Or, is it do not kill? What's the difference? Is there such a thing as justified killing?
- B. God cannot commit murder. Genesis 7:21-23; 1 Peter 3:20; Deuteronomy 20:16-17
- C. God as a God of justice instituted a judicial system to deal with murder. Numbers 35:9-34

IV. Jesus Christ addresses murder.

- A. Jesus emphasized the essence of the law: Mark 12:30
- B. Jesus emphasized the essence of murder as enmity and commands reconciliation as an antidote. Matthew 5: 21-26

V. The Conclusion of the matter:

- A. Christians are to love and not hate our brothers. 1 John 3:11-15, Leviticus 19:17-18
- B. Christians are commanded to not only love our brothers but our enemies as well. Luke 6: 27-36
- C. There are practical ways Christians can manage their anger.
 - 1. Remember that God works through trials. James 1:2-4
 - 2. Decide to never allow anger to control us. Ephesians 4:26
 - 3. Ask God to forgive us when we realize our anger is born of pride. 1 John 1:9
 - 4. Let God be the judge and avenger and not us. Isa 35:4
 - 5. Realize that God will always leave us a way out of sinful anger. 1 Corinthians 10:13