

“Thou Shalt Not Kill”

Ex. 20:13

Intro: 3 Reminders

- Keeping the law does not get you saved.
- Breaking the law does not cancel your salvation.
- Those who keep the law find themselves, and those around them, living a better-quality of life.

Open: Thou shalt not kill.

- Controversies regarding the commandment to not kill. (These will be addressed later, simply state these controversies and move on. This will engage your students mind and cause them to think about the topic.)
 - Hunting
 - War
 - The Death Penalty
- Before we look at these controversies, we need to understand the definition to the word kill.
 - To deprive life in any manner.
 - To slaughter an animal for food.
 - To murder – premeditated killing of a person.

Tran:

- Stress the importance of looking at the “context” of a word or phrase.
- The context of any word is important to look at when trying to determine the meaning of the author’s use of that word.
- Before we get into the lesson, it is important for both the teacher and the pupil to understand that the reading of and the obeying of the Bible has never created a pacifist.

I. God tells us that, in His eyes, hatred is seen as murder.

- Just as taking a human life is a premeditated choice, so is hatred. **I John 3:15** “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him”
 - a. Hatred kills blessings.
 - i. God can not bless disobedience or sin. The only way to enjoy the benefits of righteousness is to be righteous by doing righteousness. **I John 3:7** “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
 - My righteousness is as filthy rags (**Is. 46:6**), but I need to recognize that as a child of God, by faith, I am to live by the righteousness of God (**Phil. 3:9**).
 - ii. When an individual chooses to hate, he is choosing to act as his father (or stepdad) the devil. **I John 3:8** “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.
 - b. Hatred kills relationships.
 - i. God has given us this commandment to improve the quality of our relationships. **I John 3:11** “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”
 - ii. The Bible gives as a clear example what happens to those who choose to hate. **I John 3:12** “Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.”
 - Cain wanted to be seen as righteous in the sight of God; but instead of doing the righteous action he chose to act upon his hatred and bitterness.
 - c. Hatred destroys the one who is harboring hate in their life.

- i. Those who choose to hate, choose to live their life subject to the death of their sin nature. **I John 3:14** *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*
- ii. Love is proven by what someone is willing to do for another. Hatred is defined by the measures someone will go to take what another has. **I John 3:16** *“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. We know that we have passed from death unto life,”*
- iii. Jesus warns Peter to not live his life by the sword, but to learn to forgive when forgiveness is needed. **Matt. 26:52** *“Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”*
 - 1. This verse does not mean that it is wrong to defend oneself, it is emphasizing the importance of not using drastic carnal measures when forgiveness is available.
 - 2. Jesus was the one being persecuted, and Jesus is the one who by example was teaching His followers to forgive.
 - *Stress to your class that the law is like a line in the sand that was not to be crossed. God shows us that if we can keep from hating, we will not cross the line of killing. God establishes a secondary boundary to keep His children as far away as possible from sin. God shows us that if we learn to forgive, we will be much less likely to break the more severe law of unlawful killing.*

II. God’s justice will sometimes require the taking of a life.

- It is important to stress that capital punishment, or an act of war is not to be carried out lightly or to be used an excuse for personal vengeance.
- a. Capital Punishment. **Gen. 9:5-6** *“And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man’s brother will I require the life of man. [6] Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”*
 - i. The Scriptures are clear that if a man unjustly murders another man that he is to face capital punishment.
 - 1. **Ex. 21:12** *“He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.”*
 - 2. **Lev. 24:17** *“And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.”*
 - ii. It is important to recognize that God instructs how to determine the offender as guilty and gives room for mercy on those who did not intend to take a life.
 - 1. There are to be witnesses and a fair trial. **Num. 35:30-32** *“Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die. [31] Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.”*
 - 2. We do not have time to read the entire passage; but the first portion of **Num. 35** tells us about cities that a person can find shelter in if a man is killed by his hand on accident and is found not guilty of premeditated murder. **Num. 35:11** *“Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares.”*
- b. War (**when carried out properly**) is, in God’s eyes, seen as an act of justice. **ILL:** *Ex. 17 Joshua sent to battle against Amalek.*

III. Hunting isn’t unlawful; but the killing of an animal, for any reason, should be done respectfully.

- It is unhealthy to desensitize the killing of an animal. This will lead to a desensitizing of taking life from anything or anyone.
 - The killing of an animal does not need to be approached as a sacred or holy thing, but there should be a certain level of respect that is upheld.
- a. We have been given dominion, by God, over creation. – *“Certain unalienable rights...”*
- i. God gave man the authority over creation.
 1. **Gen. 1:28** *“God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”*
 2. **Ps. 8:6-8** *“Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: [7] All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; [8] The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.”*
 - ii. When man makes laws placing animal life above human life, chaos in society will soon follow.
 1. Human life will be devalued, and mankind will often start to act like an animal.
 2. Mankind will overemphasize his own law and place restrictions on the laws that God has already set in place.
- b. God created man to be a steward not a conservationist. (**See: Gen. 1:29-30**)
- The books of Matthew, Luke, I Corinthians, Titus, and I Peter all talk about and give examples of being good stewards over the things that God has given to us.
 - i. There are times when it is appropriate to kill an animal, but it should be done out of necessity not out of pleasure.
 1. For food
 2. Act of mercy on an injured or unhealthy animal.
 - ii. Man is not to worship animals or feel guilty about the taking of its life; but it should be done lawfully and respectfully.
 - The only time the killing of an animal is rebuked is when it is done as an action against another person. **Lev. 24:18** *“And he that killeth a beast shall make it good; beast for beast.”*

Close:

- We need to make sure we are not harboring hatred or bitterness in our lives.
- We need to make sure that we are being good stewards over the things that God has given us to take care of.

The 10 Commandments

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| 1. Thou Shalt have no other gods before me. | 6. Thou shalt not kill. |
| 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. |
| 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. | 8. Thou shalt not steal. |
| 4. Remember the Sabbath. | 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness. |
| 5. Honour thy father and thy mother. | 10. Thou shalt not covet. |