

## THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

### "Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13

#### A. The Command Itself:

1. This command is more accurately translated, "Thou shalt do no murder." The word "kill" to us might mean either to kill a man or to kill an animal. However, in the Hebrew language, this was not so. Different words were used in each case. The word here means to kill a human being.
2. "Murder" implies intentional killing for vengeance.

#### B. The Command in the Old Testament:

1. Years before the Ten Commandments were given, what penalty had God set for the sin of murder? Genesis 9:5, 6a  
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2. Why was such a high value placed upon the life of a man? Genesis 9:6b  
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#### C. Old Testament Examples: Read Genesis 4:1-16

1. Who was the first to break this command? Genesis 4:2-8  
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2. For what two reasons did he commit this sin?
  - a. 1 John 3:12b \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 1 John 3:12a \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was his punishment for this sin?
  - a. Genesis 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Genesis 4:12a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Genesis 4:12b \_\_\_\_\_
4. What two things made Joseph's brothers want to murder him? Genesis 37:4, 11  
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#### D. The Command in the New Testament:

1. Whom did John say was a murderer? 1 John 3:15  
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2. What did Jesus say about this command? Matthew 5:21, 22  
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3. Where does murder always come from? Matthew 15:19; Proverbs 4:23  
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2 Bible Discoveries: OT Historical Survey Series by Sarah Overstreet Midyett  
*Book 2 Leaving Egypt Through Conquest of Canaan*

**E. The Command in Present-Day Life:**

1. Who have been ordained of God to carry out the death penalty for murderers? (See Romans 13:3, 4)  

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2. Are those who carry out the death penalty guilty of breaking the sixth commandment? (*THINK!*)  

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3. The term used to describe the taking of life as a penalty for wrongdoing is "capital punishment". Look up the word "capital" in a dictionary to discover the origin of this term.  

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4. In what other instance is it usually considered possible for man to kill another man without breaking this commandment? (See Joshua 6:3, 17, 21)  

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5. Notice several ways people today commonly break this command:
  - a. By losing their temper.
  - b. By harboring hatred in their hearts.
  - c. By becoming discouraged. Discouragement is suicide.
  - d. By worrying people to death.
  - e. By knowingly selling spoiled or diseased foods.
  - f. By selling liquor.

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I have the seeds of murder or suicide in my heart?  

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2. Am I in any way contributing to the murder of any human being?  

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