

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26; 43-48
Singing: 284:1-3 - 428:1-2 – 359:1-2 – 19:1, 5 – 415:3, 6

PROTECT ALL LIFE I CREATED (2)

I. Who gave this command? II. What are the specifics of this command?

I. WHO GAVE THIS COMMAND?

A. God as the Creator and Maintainer of all life: *all life is His possession*

1. Ps. 36:6 – Is. 42:5 – Acts 17:25

B. The 6th forbids us *to murder life* and commands us *to nurture life*

II. WHAT ARE THE SPECIFICS OR OUR CALL TO PROTECT ALL LIFE?

A. God forbids the *deliberate & unlawful taking of life of yourself/others*

1. Our Creator of life forbids all murder (Gen. 9:5-6; 1 Sam 2:7)

2. Consider God's call in Proverbs 24:11-12

B. Not so obvious violations forbidden actions of the 6th

1. Neglect of **my body and health** is a transgression of the 6th

a. giving priority to our soul doesn't mean body not important

b. since our body is part of God's wonderful creation, we have responsibility to do all to protect – maintain – preserve it

C. Jesus exposition of 6th digs much deeper: Matt. 5:21-26

1. We murder when we do not love our needy neighbors

2. We murder when we don't nourish our neighbor's inner being

3. We murder when we 'strangle' spouse/children in domestic abuse

a. what is domestic abuse?

b. how fight this evil: Eccl. 4:1; Prov. 31:8-9; Prov. 13:14

4. We murder when we don't show kindness in word and deed

a. Mat. 5:22; 18:6; Eph. 4:29-32

5. We murder when we nurse murder in our heart with *envy, hatred, anger, and desire of revenge* (Eph. 4:31-32)

REFLECTIONS: Meditate on how Jesus lived out the 6th commandment

A. None treated all His neighbors with more love than He did

B. Only when we keep our eyes on the Master, will be known as how the early Christians were known

Gems on Loving-Kindness

Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear.

Every moment is the right one to be kind.

Kind words are the music of the world.

Kindness is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in others.

Do not waste time asking whether you 'love' your neighbor: act as if you did. As soon as we do this, we find one of the great secrets about love. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less.