

Ten Commandments (Part 45)
(The Sixth Commandment – Part 4)

V. Jesus' Application of the 6th Commandment

-Rules for interpreting the commandments: interpret them spiritually; prohibitions imply positive commands (Law of Contraries); synecdoche (Law of Categories)

-Matt. 5:17-19: Jesus didn't come to repeal the law; the kingdom of heaven demands meticulous observance of the law; radical contrast between rabbinic tradition and Jesus' interpretation

-Matt. 5:21: The rabbinic tradition narrowly limited the scope of the 6th Commandment to the external act of murder.

-Matt. 5:22: Jesus focuses attention on the heart and lips as well as the overt act. The violation of the 6th Commandment mustn't be limited to the over act. The penalty for violating the 6th Commandment mustn't be confined to what is administered in a human court.

-Additional Testimony: 1 John 3:15; Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 40; Westminster Larger Catechism Q#135, 136

Practical Lessons

1) Jesus' teaching on the 6th Commandment confronts each one of us with a choice.

2) Jesus' teaching on the 6th Commandment urges us to resist anything and everything with the potential to cause us to injure or harm another.