

Luke 10; Lord's Day 40
LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR'S LIFE

- I. The life given.
 - A. Earthly human life is a gift of God (Deut. 32:39) which is a picture/type of real, spiritual life.
 - B. Man's fall into sin brought death.
 - 1. Death is God's wrath as punishment of sin. It is the agonizing loss of sweet communion with God.
 - 2. Fallen man is spiritually dead, a child of the devil, who is a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44).
- II. The killing forbidden.
 - A. To kill is to take a life without having the authority to do so.
 - B. Murder touches God in three ways.
 - 1. First, it is to take away what God has given. We had nothing with giving life, and we do not have the right to take it away.
 - 2. Second, it is critical judgment of God's all-wise providence, Who put that neighbor in my path.
 - 3. Third, we touch God Himself, Who created that human in His own image (Gen. 9:6).
 - C. God commands capital punishment to show the seriousness of this sin (Gen. 9:5,6; Ex. 21:12).
- III. God demands that we love, i.e., the decision to preserve his life, to do them only good, to have as much fellowship as possible.
 - A. Love for the neighbor and brother is a calling (not an option) arising out of gratitude for His love.
 - B. What makes love of neighbor difficult is our thinking more of ourselves and our neighbor than of God.
 - 1. To control our anger and desire for revenge we must use self-control (temperance).
 - 2. Seek to pattern your love after God's love, and seek to resemble Him Who does good to all (Matt. 5:45).
 - C. In great gratitude we strive to reflect His love, both to ourselves and to our neighbor.