

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Sixth Commandment
“Thou Shalt Not Kill”
Exodus 20:13

Introduction:

1. Let's Head Back In Our Bibles Once Again:
 - To Where The Ten Commandments Were First Given:
 - In Exodus 20 - Where - Our Focus Will Be:
 - Once Again - The Sixth Commandment:
 - In 20:13 - Which, In Language That Is Both Clear & Concise, God Says:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
2. Now - Last Week:
 - We Saw That This Commandment:
 - Like All Of The Others:
 - Is Profitable For Doctrine:
 - Because It Tells Us Something About The Nature And The Character Of God!
 - And The Primary Truth About God:
 - That Is The Basis Of This Commandment:
 - Is That God Is Life!
 - God Is Life:
 - Essentially!
 - Eternally!
 - And - Efficiently!
 - That His - He Is The Source Of & The Fountain Of All Life:
 - Of Whatever Form It Takes!
3. So - Because God Is Life:
 - Life Is Precious To Him!
 - And - In Like Manner:
 - Life Is To Be Precious:
 - To Us!
 - All Life - And Especially:
 - Human Life:
 - Which Is The Primary Focus Of The Sixth Commandment!
 - Well - As I Mentioned Last Week:
 - As Simple & As Clear:
 - As This Command Is:
 - There **Is** More To It:
 - As You Look At And Consider Other Parts Of Scripture!
 - And That Is Why:
 - In Other Translations:
 - You Will Find The Commandment As:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Murder!”
 - Whereas The Word:
 - “Kill” Emphasizes:
 - The **Act** - The Word:
 - “Murder” Emphasizes:
 - The **Intent!**
4. Because - Prior To:
 - This Commandment Given To Moses:
 - God Had Given Another Commandment:
 - To Noah - Right After The Flood:
 - In Genesis 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. / Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man!”
 - So - To Understand More Clearly:
 - The Meaning Of The Sixth Commandment:

- We Need To Understand:
 - A Bit More About Death:
 - And - God's Design For Death!
- 5. Because - Not Only Are There Times:
 - As We Just Read In Genesis 9:
 - When God **Permits** Death & Even **Required** Death:
 - God Himself **Instituted** Death:
 - And Is In **Complete Control**:
 - Of One's Death - Even As He Is In Complete Control Of:
 - One's Life!
 - This Is The Truth We Find:
 - In The Inspired Prayer Of Hannah:
 - In 1 Samuel 2:6 - Where She Proclaims - "The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up!"
- 7. So - The First Thing:
 - We See In Scripture:
 - Is That God Designed Death:
- 1. **As A Punishment For Sin!**
 - When We Go Back To The Garden Of Eden:
 - In Genesis 2:16-17 - We Find God:
 - Giving To His New Creation - Adam & Eve - A Single Commandment:
 - "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat / But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it!"
 - And - What Was The Consequence? What Was The Punishment For Their Disobedience?
 - "For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die!"
 - Now - Even Though At This Point In History:
 - There Had Been No Death:
 - God Must Have Endowed Adam:
 - With Enough Knowledge To Understand:
 - That In Its Essence - Death:
 - Was The Very Opposite And The Absolute Negative:
 - To The Great Blessing Of Life He Had Just Been Given!
 - And - The Death He Would Experience:
 - If He Disobeyed God's Voice:
 - Would Be Both Certain And Consequential!
 - Because - In The Hebrew - It Is Stated That "In Dying, Thou Shalt Die!"
 - Which Death - As We See From The Rest Of Scripture - Includes Not Just A Physical Death, But A Spiritual And An Eternal Death As Well - Apart From God!
 - And - Of Course - We All Know:
 - The End To This Familiar Story:
 - Which I Would Like To Read:
 - Found In Genesis 3:1-19!
 - Read Verses!
 - So - God Designed Death:
 - As A Punishment For Sin!
 - And - Even Though Adam And Eve Did Not - By God's Mercy And Grace - Immediately Die Physically:
 - Yet - As John Gill Described It - "Death At Once Began To Work In Him!"
 - And - Even Though The Bible Records Adam's Life As 930 Years, Which To Us Seems Like A Very Long Time!
 - Yet - In Genesis 5:5 - We Come To Those All-Too-Common Words:
 - "And He Died!"
 - Of Course, Eve Eventually Died To:
 - Even Though We Are Not Told When! - But - Long Before Their Physical Deaths:

- They Died That Day In The Garden By Losing Their Spiritual Life:
 - And Their Initial Connection To The God Of Life:
 - As They Tried To Hide “Themselves From The Presence Of The Lord God Amongst The Trees Of The Garden!” (3:8)
- And - For A Time:
 - They Were In A State:
 - Which Is Described In Ephesians 2:1:
 - As Being “Dead In Trespasses And Sins!”
 - And - Apart From The Intervention Of God - This Spiritual Death & Eventual Physical Death:
- Would Also Result In An Eternal Death!
 - And This Is Described For Us:
 - All The Way At The End Of The Bible:
 - Revelation 20:14-15 - At The Great White Throne Judgment - When The Apostle John Saw That - “Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. / And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire!”
 - This Is What Adam And Eve:
 - Had In Store For Them:
 - If God Had Not Provided Them Another Way:
 - To Be Re-Vived From Their Spiritual Lifelessness!
 - Which He Did By Making A Special Promise In Genesis 3:15 - In What Is Known As:
 - The “Proto-Evangelium” - That Is - The First Mention & Glimpse Of The Gospel:
 - The Good News Of God’s Grace To Sinners!
- So - It Is Clear That:
 - God Both Designed Death:
 - And Uses Death:
 - As A Punishment For Sin!
 - And This Is Why We Need To Both Believe & Tell People - What We Find In Romans 6:23:
 - “For The Wages Of Sin Is Death!”
 - So - The Reason There Is Death In This World:
 - Is Because There Is Sin In This World!
 - But - We Also See From Scripture:
 - That God Designed Death:

2. *As A Prevention Of Sin!*

- So - Even Though In The Sixth Commandment:
 - God Says To Us - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
 - Yet - At Other Times:
 - He Allows And Permits And Even Sanctions Men To Take The Lives:
 - Of Other Men!
 - For Example - There Are Times:
 - Life May Be Taken For:
 - The Purpose Of Protection!
 - That Is - Protection & Defense:
 - Of Self And Others:
 - When They Are In Jeopardy:
 - Of Their Own Lives!
 - In Exodus 22:2-3 - Just A Few Chapters:
 - From Where God Just Said:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Kill” - He Provides This Exception:
 - “If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him!”
 - This Indicates That The Act Of Killing:
 - In Legitimate Self-Defense:
 - Is Not Murder & Is Not Forbidden By The Sixth Commandment!
 - As One Author Describes It - “The Concern In The Commandment Against Murder is To Protect *Innocent* Life, And In The Case Of Self-Defense, The

Innocent Party Is The One Who Must Defend Himself!"

- Even The Lord Jesus Told His Disciples In Luke 22:36:
 - "But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one!"
 - And - When His Disciples Said:
 - In Luke 22:38 - "Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough!"
 - Jesus Knew That:
 - His Disciples Would Continue To Live:
 - In Dangerous Times!
 - And - Self-Defense And Protection May, At Times, Be Necessary And Even Acceptable To God!
- But - This Purpose Of Protection:
 - Especially For Believers - Must Be Handled:
 - With The Utmost Care And Caution!
 - Because - Life Is Still Precious To God - And Must Still Be Precious To Us!
- However - There Are Other Times Lives May Be Taken:
 - And That Is For:
- The Purpose Of Preservation!
 - That Is - Preservation Of Righteousness & Peace & Safety:
 - By A Nation:
 - For Her People!
 - Even Though Jesus Talks About:
 - "Wars And Rumours Of Wars" - Yet:
 - At Times - God Himself Sanctioned War:
 - In Order To Preserve The Righteousness, Peace And Safety Of **His** People!
- In Exodus 15:
 - At The Very Beginning Of The Song Of Moses:
 - Moses Proclaims This - Exodus 15:3 - "The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name!"
- All Throughout Their History:
 - God Used The Children Of Israel:
 - As His Instrument Of Divine Justice:
 - To Execute Holy War On Places & People:
 - Who Persisted In Their Wickedness And Rebellion Against Him!
 - But - That Was Then!
 - What About Now?
- According To Romans 13:1-4:
 - We Are To - "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. / Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. / For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: / For he is the minister of God to thee for good!"
 - So - Even Though Today - There Are No National Governments That Represent The Lord:
 - As The People Of Israel Did In The Old Testament:
 - Yet - God Has "Ordained" All National Governments And Powers To Be - "The Ministers Of God - For Good!" (13:4)
- This Means - That God Ordained Governments:
 - To Promote & Preserve:
 - The Righteousness, Peace, And Safety:
 - Of **Their** People:
 - Just As God Did:
 - For **His** People!
- And So - At Times:
 - It Is Right For Nations:
 - To Go To War - Even Though **In** War:
 - Many Lives May Be Lost!

- But - Even In War:
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - Life Is Still Precious To God - And Must Still Be Precious To Us!
 - Another Time Life May Be Taken Is For:
 - The Purpose Of Punishment!
 - Also In Romans 13:4:
 - Paul Writes - "But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil!"
 - Here - Paul Is Writing To His Christian Brothers And Sisters Who Were Citizens, Or At Least, Residents Of The Roman Empire!
 - And He Tells Them That Their Own Government "Beareth Not The Sword In Vain!"
 - The "Sword" Was Known:
 - As An Instrument Of Death!
 - And Was A Tool:
 - For Providing The Ultimate Form Of Justice:
 - Capital Punishment!
 - This Is Something That:
 - God Himself Sanctioned:
 - In The Old Testament:
 - Many Times!
 - And So - When God Said:
 - In The Sixth Commandment:
 - "Thou Shalt Not Kill" - He Was Not Referring To:
 - Acts Of Self-Defense, Just Warfare, Or Even Capital Punishment:
 - If Done Morally And Lawfully!
 - But - Even Still:
 - And Even In These Dire & Drastic Times:
 - Life Must Be Precious To Us:
 - Because Life Is Precious To God!
 - Remember - God Himself Says:
 - In Ezekeil 33:11 - "I Have No Pleasure In The Death Of The Wicked!"
 - And Neither Should We!
 - **IE:** Just A Couple Of Weeks Ago:
 - There Were 3 Men Executed Right Here:
 - In Our State - Who Had Been On Death Row For Many Years:
 - For The Horrific Crimes They Committed!
 - And - Even Though Their Punishment Of Death:
 - Was Justified - In The Eyes Of The Law:
 - And Even In The Eyes Of God:
 - The Taking Of Their Lives Should Not Be Made Light Of! (Radio)
 - It Is A Serious And A Solemn And A Very Sad Thing!
 - Because God Is The God Of Life!
 - Even God:
 - When He Justly Acts Upon His Wrath:
 - Remembers Mercy! (Habakkuk 3:2)
 - And So - Even We:
 - Though We Are To:
 - "Do Justly" - Yet - At The Same Time - We Need To:
 - "Love Mercy!" (Micah 6:8)
- But Even Still - God Designed Death:
 - As A Way To Prevent:
 - Further Sin And Wickedness In This World!
 - To **Deter** Those:
 - Who **Would** Take Innocent Life!
 - And - At Times:
 - To **Remove** Those:
 - Who **Have!**

- But - We Also See From Scripture:
- That God Designed Death:

3. *As A Provision For Sin!*

- If You Go Back With Me:
 - To The Garden Of Eden:
 - Where We Started Tonight:
 - And To Genesis 3:15 - Where God:
 - Gave His Promise Of Hope:
 - That The “Seed” Of The Woman Would “Bruise” And “Crush” The Serpents Head!
 - Well - That Victory:
 - Would Come At A Price!
 - Because That Serpent Would Also:
 - “Bruise His Heel!”
 - That Seed – That Savior – Would Suffer!
 - But - Before The Coming:
 - Of That Seed - God Did Something:
 - For Adam And Eve:
 - To Show Them, As An Object Lesson, What That Seed Would Do!
 - By Death – He Would Provide A Covering For Sin!
 - In Genesis 3:21 - We Are Told:
 - “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them!”
 - The Skins Would Have Come From:
 - Animals - Likely Sheep:
 - That God Would Have Sacrificed In Order To Provide:
 - Not Only A Covering For Their Naked Bodies:
 - But An Atonement For Their Sin!
 - Of Course - We Know:
 - As We Are Told In Hebrews 10:11 That:
 - Those Sacrifices “Can Never Take Away Sins!”
 - But - They Were A Picture Of The Suffering & Death:
 - Of That Seed Who Was To Come!
 - Jesus Christ! Because:
 - By Death – He Would Provide A Cleansing From Sin!
 - As We Are Told In:
 - 1 Peter 1:18-20 - “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; / But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: / Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you!”
 - So - Even Before:
 - “The Foundation Of The World”:
 - God Had A Plan - To Use Death:
 - And The Death Of His Son:
 - To Provide A Way That “Whosoever Believeth In Him Should Not Perish, But Have Everlasting Life!”

Conclusion:

1. So - Remember Tonight:
 - That In God’s Commandment:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Kill – Murder” - He Demonstrates:
 - That He Has A ***Design For:***
 - And Is Even In ***Control Of:***
 - ***Death Itself!***
 - Though He Designed Death:
 - As A Punishment For Sin - And:
 - As A Prevention Of Sin - Yet:
 - He Also Made Provision For Sin:

- Through The Death Of Jesus Christ On The Cross!

2. But Then - When You Believe In Him:

- Death Has No More Sway Or Dominion Over You!

- Because - When Jesus Rose From The Dead:

- According To 1 Corinthians 15:54:

- "Death was swallowed up in victory!!"

- And Now - How Can We Respond?

- "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? / The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. / But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

- Remember:

- God Always Had - And:

- He Still Always Has:

- A Design - Even For:

- Death!

* Do You See How God Had A Design For & Is Even In Control Of Death?

* Are You Trusting In The Death Of Jesus To Give You Life?

* Are You Living Your Life Today In Light Of The Fact That "Death Was Swallowed Up In Victory?"

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