

***“O How Love I Thy Law!”***  
***The Sixth Commandment***  
***“Out Of The Heart”***  
***Exodus 20:13***

**Introduction:**

1. Well - It's Been A Couple Of Weeks:
  - Since We Were Last In Our Series:
    - On The Ten Commandments!
      - So - To Begin - Why Don't We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
        - To Exodus 20 - To Review Them Together!
  - Let's Read 20:1-17!
    - Tonight - Our Focus Will Be:
      - Once Again - On The Sixth Commandment:
        - Found In 20:13:
          - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
2. Now - The Last Time We Were Together:
  - In This Verse - We Learned:
    - A Bit More Of What:
      - This Commandment Means:
        - And Does Not Mean!
    - It Means That:
      - God Designed Death:
        - For Several Reasons!
      - The First Reason God Designed Death:
        - Was For The Punishment Of Sin!
          - Because “The Wages Of Sin Is Death!”
      - The Second Reason God Designed Death:
        - Was For The Prevention Of Sin!
          - Because - There Are Times When God Not Only Allows The Taking Of Human Life:
            - There Are Times When He Sanctions It As Well!
        - So - “Thou Shalt Not Kill” - Does Not Apply:
          - To Self-Defense, Warfare, Or Even Capital Punishment:
            - When They Are Done In A Lawful Way!
        - Of Course - Accidental Death:
          - Is Also Something That God Allows For:
            - Which Is Why, In The Old Testament, He Provided Six “Cities Of Refuge” For His People!
        - And The Third Reason God Designed Death:
          - Was For The Pardon Of Sin!
            - So That Through The Death Of Jesus Christ:
              - “Whosoever BelievetH In Him Should Not Perish, But Have Everlasting Life!”  
(John 3:16)
    - And The Third Reason God Designed Death:
      - Was For The Pardon Of Sin!
        - So That Through The Death Of Jesus Christ:
          - “Whosoever BelievetH In Him Should Not Perish, But Have Everlasting Life!”  
(John 3:16)
3. So - In Sum - “Thou Shalt Not Kill” Means:
  - “Thou Shalt Not Murder!”
    - But - Even When There Are Times:
      - When It Is Permissible For A Human Life To Be Taken:
        - It Is Never To Be Taken Lightly!
  - And This Is Because Of The Doctrine:
    - That We First Looked At:
      - That God Is A God Of Life!
        - And Since Life Is Precious To God:
          - Life Is Also & Always:
            - To Be Precious To Us!
4. Well - Tonight:
  - We Are Going To See That:
    - There Is More To God's Law:
      - And There Is More To:

- This Commandment:
  - Than Just The Letter!
- “Thou Shalt Not Kill” Is:
  - An Expansive Commandment:
    - Because It Flows From The Nature Of God Himself!
    - And God Is After:
      - Your Spirit & Your Heart:
        - That Will Respond To The Real Message Behind This And All Of The Other Commandments!
- Remember What The Apostle Paul Says:
  - Is The “Fulfilling Of The Law”:
    - In Romans 13:10?
      - It’s Love!
        - “Love Is The Fulfilling Of The Law!”
  - When You Love God:
    - “With All Thy Heart, And With All Thy Soul, And With All Thy Mind” (Matthew 22:37-38):
      - It Will Become A Natural Thing:
        - To Keep The Commandments Of The First Tablet:
          - That Deal With Your Relationship With God!
    - And - When You Love Your Neighbor:
      - “As Thyself” (Matthew 22:39-40):
        - It Will Also Become A Natural Thing:
          - To Keep The Commandments Of The Second Tablet:
            - That Deal With Your Relationships With Your Fellow Man!

5. And We Will See This Even More Clearly:

- In Jesus Own Exposition:
  - Of The Sixth Commandment:
    - In The Sermon On The Mount:
      - Found In Matthew 5 - So - For The Rest Of Our Time Tonight:
        - Let’s Look Together At Matthew 5:20-24 - Where We Read These Words Of Jesus:
 

- “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. / 21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: / 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. / 23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; / 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift!”
  - The First Thing We See From These Verses Is:

1. ***The Righteousness Of God’s Law!***

- In 5:20 - Where Jesus Says:
  - “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven!”
    - It Is Clear From This Statement:
      - That - In Order To “Enter Into The Kingdom Of Heaven” - There Is:
  - A Necessary Righteousness!
    - Because God Is Righteous:
      - He Cannot Stand Any:
        - Unrighteousness In His Sight!
    - And - Since God Is Holy:
      - He Cannot Stand Any:
        - Unholiness In His Presence!
    - In Hebrews 12:14 - We Are Told:
      - To “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!”
    - So - Righteousness Is Necessary:
      - In Order To See & To Be:

- With God!
- But - Even More - It Is To Be:
- A Noteworthy Righteousness!
  - As Jesus Said:
    - “Except Your Righteousness Shall Exceed The Righteousness Of The Scribes And Pharisees!”
    - Now - This Would Have Been A Very Shocking Statement:
      - To The People Who Lived In Christ’s Day!
      - Because - The Scribes And The Pharisees Were Known For Their Righteousness!
  - The Scribes Wrote Out God’s Law:
    - Over & Over Again!
      - In Fact - We Are Indebted To The Scribes:
        - For Meticulously Recording God’s Inspired Words And, Over Time, Handing It Down To Us!
    - And So - They Were Considered To Be:
      - Experts In The Knowledge:
        - Of God’s Word!
  - The Pharisees Worked Out God’s Law:
    - Through The Standards And Traditions:
      - That - They Believed - Would Help Them Stay Far, Far Away From Breaking:
        - The Standards Of God!
    - And So - They Were Considered To Be:
      - Experts In The Application:
        - Of God’s Word!
  - So - For Jesus To Say:
    - That - In Order To “Enter The Kingdom Of Heaven” - Your Righteousness:
      - Needs To “Exceed The Righteousness Of The Scribes And Pharisees!”
      - This Would Have Rocked Their World!
  - So - There Was Something Defective:
    - In The Righteousness:
      - Of The Scribes And Pharisees!
- Well - As We’ve Seen Already:
  - On Sunday Mornings - Through The Book Of Romans:
    - The Righteousness Jesus Is Talking About:
      - Is A Righteousness:
        - That Is Not Your Own!
    - Instead - The Righteousness Jesus Is Talking About:
      - Is His Own Righteousness!
        - A Complete & An Eternal Righteousness!
      - And It Is His Righteousness Alone:
        - That Can And Will Be Imputed & Applied To You:
          - When You Believe In Him!
    - Then And Only Then:
      - Will You Have The Necessary & The Noteworthy Righteousness That You Need:
        - To “Enter The Kingdom Of Heaven!”
  - But - This Still Shows That:
    - In The Commandments Of God:
      - You Can Find God’s Own Standards:
        - Of Right And Wrong!
          - Yet - So Often - Like The Scribes & Pharisees - We Tend To Focus On:

## 2. ***The Routine Of God’s Law!***

- As We See In 5:21:
  - “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment!”
    - Sometimes - There Can Be Such A:
- Familiarity Of The Words Of The Law:
  - That - When We Hear It:

- It Goes In One Ear & Out The Other!
  - Jesus Knew Of This Kind Of Familiarity When He Said - "Ye Have Heard That It Was Said By Them Of Old Time!"
- But - Even Though God's Law:
  - Is Ancient To Us:
    - It Is Not Antiquated!
- And - Even Though God's Law:
  - May Seem Familiar To Us:
    - It Is Not Old-Fashioned!
- Instead - God's Law:
  - In Its Entirety:
    - Is Just As Relevant And Applicable To Us:
      - As Ever - As We've Been Attempting To Show All Year!
- But - When God's Law Becomes:
  - So Familiar To You - There Can Then Be:
    - A Strict:
- Focus On The Letter Of The Law:
  - As Jesus Here Quotes:
    - The Sixth Commandment:
      - "Thou Shalt Not Kill!"
  - Well - For The Scribes:
    - As Well As The Pharisees:
      - They Would Never Kill Anyone!
        - It Would Be Inconceivable To Them That Anyone Would!
  - But - With Such A Strict Focus:
    - On The Letter Of This Commandment:
      - There Was A:
- Forgetting Of The Spirit Of The Law!
  - Because - As Jesus Notes Here:
    - They Only Applied The Sixth Commandment:
      - To Actual Murder:
        - 5:21c - "And Whosoever Shall Kill Shall Be In Danger Of The Judgment!"
  - So - Their Main Concern Was:
    - On The Actual Act:
      - Of Murder!
        - And That's It!
- And So - To Those Religious Men:
  - God's Law & God's Commandments:
    - Became A Matter Of Routine!
  - Remember When - In Luke 18:
    - Jesus Confronted A Rich Young Ruler With 5 Of The 10 Commandments?
      - He Said To Him - Luke 18:20 - "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother!"
  - This Routine Of God's Law:
    - Is Why He Could Respond To Jesus With These Words:
      - 18:21 - "And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up!"
        - As Far As This Man Was Concerned, He **Had** Kept All Those Commandments!
  - Because Of His Familiarity:
    - With Them!
      - "From My Youth Up" - He Said!
  - Because Of His Focus:
    - On The Letter Of Them!
      - He Meticulously Tried To Keep The Letter Of Each Law!
  - But - He Forgot About:
    - The True Spirit Of God's Law:
      - Which We Find In 5:22 - Which Is:

### 3. ***The Root Of God's Law!***

- Where Jesus Says - 5:22:
  - "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire!"
    - Here - God Gives Us:
      - The True Meaning And The True Message Behind The Sixth Commandment!
  - When Jesus Says:
    - "But I Say Unto You" - He Is Speaking:
      - As The Original Giver:
        - Of The Law!
      - He Is Not Adding:
        - Anything To His Law:
          - He Is Clarifying It:
            - For Us All! So:
- "Thou Shalt Not Kill" Applies:
  - To Your Thoughts:
    - Toward Others!
      - 5:22a - "That Whosoever Is Angry With His Brother Without A Cause Shall Be In Danger Of The Judgment!"
  - The Scribes & The Pharisees:
    - Focused On The ***Act***:
      - Of Murder - But Jesus Focused:
        - On The ***Attitude***!
  - After All - Jesus Himself Said:
    - In Matthew 15:19 - "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies!"
  - So - When You Are:
    - "Angry . . . Without A Cause" - Jesus Says:
      - Its As If You Murdered Someone:
        - Already In Your Heart!
      - The "Brother" That Is Referred To Here:
        - Is "Brother" In A General Sense!
          - It Means - Your Fellow Man!
          - It Means - Your Neighbor!
            - And - If You Wonder Just Who Your Neighbor Is - Just Ask The Good Samaritan!
  - Now - The Bible Does Tell Us:
    - That There Can Be:
      - A ***Righteous*** Anger!
        - And - An Anger ***With*** A Cause!
          - But This Kind Of Anger Must Reflect The Anger Of God Toward Sin!
  - But - Unjust, Rash, And Hasty Anger:
    - ***Is*** A Sin - And Is:
      - A Violation Of The Sixth Commandment!
        - Because It Is A Feeling That Would Lead A Person To Murder, If It Is Fully Acted Out!
  - The Apostle John:
    - Puts It This Way In 1 John 3:15:
      - "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him!"
  - Is There Anyone:
    - You Are Angry With:
      - Without A Cause?
    - Or - Is There Anyone:
      - That You Remain Angry With Or Even Bitter Toward:
        - That You Have Not Taken Steps To Reconcile That Relationship?
  - Let God's Law:

- Reprove You Of This!
  - Unrighteous Anger & Bitterness Is Sin!
  - Sin As Serious As That Of Murder!
- “Thou Shalt Not Kill” Also Applies:
  - To Your Treatment:
    - Of Others!
      - 5:22b - “And whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council!”
  - The Word “Raca” Was:
    - A Scornful Word:
      - Used To Reproach And Hurt Someone:
        - Intentionally!
    - It’s Literal Meaning Was:
      - “Empty Headed” - Or - As We Might Call Someone:
        - “Stupid!”
    - It Was Said Out Of Personal Pride:
      - And Contempt:
        - For The Other Person!
  - And Jesus Here Equates:
    - This Kind Of Attitude And Treatment Of Others:
      - As A Violation Of The Sixth Commandment As Well!
        - Because - It Demeans The Very Life Given To Them By God!
          - In A Sense, You Are Wishing That That Person Would Not Exist!
  - Is There Anyone:
    - You Feel This Way About?
      - Is There Anyone:
        - You Have Said This About?
    - Even When It Is Said:
      - Off-The-Cuff - Maybe Not Even Meaning To Hurt Someone By It!
        - Remember Matthew 12:36 - “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment!”
    - Even When You Treat Someone Like This:
      - Behind Their Back - Through Gossip:
        - Its As If You Are Assassinating Their Character And Their Name!
  - Let God’s Law:
    - Reprove You Of This!
      - Words Of Reproach And Contempt Are Sin!
        - And Sin As Serious As That Of Murder!
- “Thou Shalt Not Kill” Also Applies:
  - To Your Tongue:
    - And To Your Judgment Of Others!
      - 5:22c - “But whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire!”
  - The Word Translated “Fool” Here Is:
    - A Spiteful Word - “Moros!
      - And It Is Used To Judge The Worth And The Motives Of Someone:
        - And Concluding That They Have No Value & They Have No Worth!
    - It’s A Word Of Judgment:
      - Where You Put Yourself In The Place Of God:
        - And Judge A Person’s Spiritual And Eternal State!
  - And - Jesus Describes:
    - The Punishment For This Sin:
      - As Even More Severe:
        - Than What The Scribes And Pharisees Inflicted:
          - For The Crime Of Actual Murder!
    - To Kill Someone:
      - According To Them In 5:21:
        - You Are In Danger Of The Judgment! That Is - You Will Be Tried For The Crime Of Murder Before The Appropriate Courts!

- But - To Judge Someone & Call Them "Fool":
  - According To Jesus Here:
    - You Are In "Danger Of Hell Fire" And The Judgment Of God!
- Words Of Judgment And Condemnation Are Sin!
  - Sin As Serious As That Of Murder!
    - So - Let God's Law:
      - Reprove You Even Of This!
- This Shows Us That:
  - The Root Of God's Law:
    - Is Spiritual - And:
      - His Focus Is On The Heart Of Sin:
        - Not Just On The Hands!
  - So - What Recourse Do We Have:
    - When We Find:
      - This Kind Of Anger & Attitude & Aim:
        - Against Others?
    - Well - In 5:23-24 - We Find Once Again:

#### 4. ***The Reason For God's Law!***

- 5:23-24 - "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; / Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift!"
  - God's Commandments Are Designed:
    - To Confront You & To Convict You:
      - Of Your Sin - And Then:
        - Drive You To Seek Forgiveness And Reconciliation:
          - From Both God And Man!
  - God Tells Us In The Sixth Commandment:
    - "Thou Shalt Not Kill" - Because:
      - He Wants You:
- To Remember!
  - To Remember Your Sins:
    - And Your Offenses:
      - Toward Others:
        - As Well As Toward God!
    - 5:23a - "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee!"
  - So - Tonight:
    - Ask God To Search Your Heart!
      - Have You Sinned Against Others:
        - In Your Thoughts:
          - Toward Them?
        - In Your Treatment:
          - Of Them?
        - With Your Tongue:
          - And In Your Words:
            - To Them?
    - Then - Let God's Law Reprove You:
      - And Cause You To Remember:
        - What You Have Done!
          - Because Then - God Wants You:
  - To Reconcile!
    - And Settle:
      - The Sin That Might Be Between You:
        - And Another Person:
          - Especially If It Is Someone Within The "Household Of Faith!"
    - But - Note What Jesus Says:
      - In 5:23 - He Talks About If:

- “Thy Brother Hath Ought Against Thee!”
  - This Means That The Person **Knows** Something About The Offense You Have Committed!
- Sometimes - If It Is:
  - A Secret Offense:
    - Reconciliation Should Be Made:
      - Before God Alone!
  - But - If It Becomes:
    - An Offense That Is Known:
      - Jesus Says - 5:24 - “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother!”
- To Reconcile With Someone Means:
  - That You Need To:
    - Admit Your Offense:
      - Without Qualification!
    - To Say - “I’m Sorry **If** You Were Offended” Isn’t Much Of An Admission Of Guilt!
      - To Say - “I’m Sorry **That** I Offended” Is The Path To True Reconciliation!
  - To Reconcile With Someone Also Means:
    - That You:
      - Ask For Their Pardon!
      - Provide Restitution, If Necessary!
      - And Assure Them Of Your Desire To Never Sin Against Them Again!
  - But - When This Reconciliation Takes Place:
    - Is That It? Is It Over?
      - No - Because God Also Wants You:
- To Return!
  - Return To Him!
    - 5:24b - “First be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift!”
- Because - The Purpose & The Reason:
  - For God’s Law:
    - Was Never For You:
      - To Establish Your Own Righteousness:
        - But To Reveal:
          - Your Lack Of Righteousness - And Your Need Of Christ And His Righteousness!
- So - Return To Him!

**Conclusion:**

1. And With This:
  - Jesus Explains The True Intent:
    - And - The Full Extent:
      - Of His Sixth Commandment:
        - “Thou Shalt Not Kill!”
2. This Was - As One Writer Describes It:
  - The “Fundamental Error” Of The Scribes And Pharisees!
    - They Believed That The “Divine Law Prohibited Only The Sinful Act, Not The Sinful Thought!”
      - But - The Truth Is - As Jesus Himself Taught:
        - That God’s Law Deals With Both!
3. And So - The Sixth Commandment:
  - Was Given By God:
    - To Teach You That:
      - We Are To Love The Lives Of Our Fellow Man!
        - Even As God Himself Does!

- \* Are You Trusting In Your Own Righteousness Or In The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ?
- \* Has The Word Of God & The Law Of God Become Routine To You?
- \* Is There Someone You Need To Reconcile With Tonight?



*Grace Baptist Church  
Stephen Elmer, Pastor  
4245 North 200 West  
Greenfield, Indiana 46140  
317-326-2362  
[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)  
[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)  
[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)*