

LIFE MATTERS

"You shall not murder."

Exodus 20:13 (NIV)

❖ What This Commandment Does Not Prohibit

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32 (NKJV)

1. It does not prohibit KILLING ANIMALS for FOOD.

"Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants (to eat), I now give you everything (to eat)."

Genesis 9:3 (NIV)

2. It does not prohibit CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

"If anyone takes a life of a human being, he must be put to death. ²¹...Whoever kills (someone's) animal they must make restitution, but whoever kills a man must be put to death."

Leviticus 24:17, 21 (NIV)

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.

Romans 13:1 (NIV)

3. It does not prohibit going to WAR or SELF-DEFENSE.

There is a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:8 (HCSB)

❖ What This Commandment Means for Us

"You must not deny justice to the poor among you in his lawsuit. ⁷ Stay far away from a false accusation. Do not kill the innocent and the just, because I will not justify the guilty."

Exodus 23:6-7 (HCSB)

1. God does not condone SUICIDE.

We are not our own bosses to live and die as we ourselves might choose.

Romans 14:7 (LB)

"Man's days are determined; You (God) have decreed the number of his days."

2. God does not condone MERCY KILLING.

"It is God who directs the lives of His creatures; every man's life is in God's power."

Job 12:10 (TEV)

3. God does not condone ABORTION.

You created my inmost being; you knit them together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made... ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:13-14, 16 (NIV)

❖ How We Can Break This Commandment Other Than Physical Murder?

"You have heard it said, but I say unto you..."

Matthew 5:21 (NIV)

1. We can ASSASSINATE others with our ACTIONS.

"You have heard it said, 'Do not murder', and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."

Matthew 5:21-22a (NIV)

2. We can MURDER people with our WORDS.

"Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca' (literally imbecile), is subject to the council. But anyone who says, 'You Fool' (literally you are worthless) will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Matthew 5:22b (NIV)

They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows.

Psalm 64:3 (NIV)

3. We become an ACCESSORY to MURDER by our AMBIVALENCE to sin.

"Do not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is threatened. I am the Lord. ¹⁷ ...Confront people directly so you will not be held guilty for their sin."

Leviticus 19:16-17b (NLT)

❖ Closing Challenge: God's answer to murder.

"In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold."

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)