

BORN TO GROW

THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS

LOVE, LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP

BTG507

RULE: THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

This commandment continues the strong theme of the sacredness of human life. Murder was the first recorded sin after Adam and Eve were cast out from the garden of Eden (Genesis 4:1-8). Human life is so sacred that God Himself established the death penalty for murder in the days of Noah (Genesis 9:6).

Jesus enlarged on this commandment in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew (5-7). He pointed out that not only is life to be protected but that the love and relationship for which that life has been created must also be protected. He pointed out that unkindness in our dealings with one another breaches the principles of this commandment. That is, He pointed to the fact that unkindness kills and that we are held accountable by God for it.

Matthew 5:21-26

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

2 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25

Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

26 Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

Jesus, in interpreting the spirit of this commandment, showed that it referred to two main thoughts which are malice and reconciliation.

Malice

Malice is having a destructive heart toward another.

Jesus outlined three main areas of malice. These are anger, insult and despising and are dealt with in verse 22 above.

Anger

Not all anger is forbidden by this commandment. Sometimes anger is justified.

Ephesians 4:26

*"Be angry, and do not sin":
do not let the sun go down on your wrath,*

It is never good to suppress anger. Neither is it good to unleash it. Anger must be acknowledged and dealt with. It must be faced squarely and resolved in a way that pleases God. Suppressed anger is the cause of many emotional, spiritual and relationship problems. This is because suppressed anger becomes bitterness. Bitterness is destructive. Bitterness defiles.

Hebrews 12:14-15

*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:
15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of
bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;*

The anger forbidden by this commandment is destructive anger. It is anger that strikes out without thinking or control. It is often suppressed anger that has become bitterness and is spreading like a poison through the one holding it and damaging all who come in contact with it.

Insult

Raca was a term of insult. It was the equivalent of today saying “*you idiot!*” Many people have established an insulting and ungracious manner in their speech. Their words are often coarse, brutal, abrasive or cutting. They are often not aware of the great damage they are doing when they speak this way. Sadly, some are aware. Either way, they are greatly offending God when they speak in this way. All must come to see that unkind or insulting speech is pure and simple sin. Sin for which God will accept no excuses and for which he requires a reckoning.

Colossians 4:6

*Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how
you ought to answer each one.*

Despising

Despising a person is the act of treating someone like a fool. It is treating other people as being of lesser value than others. It is treating people as being inferior because of their sex, race, age, accomplishments, health or simply because they don't have the image we want to be associated with.

James 2:8-9

*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your
neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and
are convicted by the law as transgressors.*

Reconciliation

The heart of a reconciler is constructive and inclusive toward others. The reconciler cares about personal relationship and devotes himself to establishing, restoring and

preserving friendships. Jesus pointed out that this constructive obedience must be worked out in two dimensions.

Within The Sphere Of Fellowship

Jesus' words in verse 23 and 24 above, show that doing whatever we can to be reconciled with our brethren must take priority over any spiritual service.

With Those With Whom We Have Come Into Conflict

Jesus' words in Verse 25 are clear. In seeking reconciliation we must seek to befriend any adversary. Later in this same chapter, Jesus enlarged even further on our responsibilities toward those who seek our harm.

Matthew 5:38-39

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matthew 5:-43-44

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

In telling us to love our enemies, Jesus is not saying that we must not protect ourselves or those in our protection. He is pointing out that we must not return kind for kind; any response must be in the spirit of reconciliation as distinct from retaliation.

REASON

The reason this commandment is needed is to cause us to cease from being defensive which is the result of suspicion in our lives. It is also to cause us to unite with God in His care for life and relationships.

REACTION

People that have failed to honour God as God and given Him His rightful place in their lives are condemned to live in various forms of reaction. These reactions become the sin patterns for each commandment. In the last study, we saw that efforts of self-determination result in the person becoming distrustful and suspicious. Suspicion and distrust develops because other people always seem to interfere with the way that person has determined things should be. Still determined to have their own way, the suspicious and distrustful often then behave in a way that is destructive of relationships.

This behaviour takes at least three forms, withdrawal, resistance or aggression.

Withdrawal

When faced with situations in relationship that require a change of will, these people withdraw into themselves, thus ending and often destroying further relationship. These people are often sulky, sullen and incommunicative. They often justify their behaviour to themselves by believing that they are misunderstood. This can become a way of life

that in many cases prevents relationships developing.

People who withdraw in this way are often moody, difficult to communicate with and unwilling to listen to counsel. In many ways they become like Cain was before He killed His brother Abel.

Genesis 4:6

So the LORD said to Cain,

*"Why are you angry?
And why has your countenance fallen?"*

Resistance

Resistant people are difficult in relationships through their stubbornness and obstinacy. They will resist any pressure or circumstance that would challenge them to change their will. These people are usually defensive in not allowing others, even their close family, to come near them.

Psalms 32:9

Be not like the horse or mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with it and bridle, else it will not keep with you.

Aggression

The aggressive person is belligerent and quick tempered. This is often in the form of self righteous accusation. These people see any challenge in relationship as a personal threat and retaliate. These are the "hotheads". They are dogmatic in their views, self opinionated and quick to judge. This sort of man is what the Bible calls a quick tempered. They are therefore disqualified from holding office in the Church (1 Timothy 3:2-3).

Titus 1:7

For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

An example of an aggressive person is Shimei:

2 Samuel 16:5-13

Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 "The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!" 9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over

and take off his head!" 10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" 11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him. 12 "It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day." 13 And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

David's reply is a perfect example of how to respond to aggressive threats (Proverbs 26:4)

RESULT

The result of disobedience to this commandment is that we become alienated in our hearts from others.

REMEDY

There are three aspects of the remedy. These are rod, revelation and release. The rod refers to the hand of God upon us in discipline. The revelation is that aspect of the truth which is in Christ that can set us free in each particular situation. The release is the living freedom that is experienced as the soul is set free to obey.

Rod

The judgment of God on those who would break this commandment is often loneliness and alienation. This is as the judgment on Cain, the first man to ever offend against this commandment in the Bible.

Genesis 4:8-13

Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth." 13 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!

Cain was isolated from man and God. This judgment serves to heighten to an intolerable level, the experience of loneliness and alienation. Cain offended again love and so was cut off from love. It may be then that many who complain about loneliness and that people do not love them may be being dealt with by God for their bitterness or lack of love and grace.

Revelation

Jesus never related to others in reaction. He also valued close personal friendships.

1 Peter 2:23

who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

John 15:15

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing.*

What we must see, therefore, to be set free from defensiveness is the value of the lives of others and therefore of relationships as a keystone of fulfilment in our lives.

Release

The release is into becoming actively able to include one another in our lives.

Romans 15:5-7

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.