

Honor Human Life

Exodus 20:13

I. What Did This Mean to Them?

A. Is the killing of a human being murder? YES!

1. **Murder** (רצח) = to “dash to pieces”, so, murder a human being. To kill an animal is another word (טבח)
2. This word is used for both pre-meditated murder & manslaughter.
3. This does not apply to killing in combat or the government using capital punishment.
4. The Old Testament practice:
 - a. Gen 9:5.6 - **And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.**
 - b. If anyone committed murder, they could flee to 1 of 3 Cities of Refuge to stand trial by an impartial tribunal.
 - c. If found guilty of murder, they would be handed over to the victim's next of kin to be executed.
 - d. If guilty of manslaughter, they would have to stay in the City of Refuge until the high priest died; then they would be exiled someplace else.

B. Is the killing of animals murder? NO!

1. **ILL: Hindus believe in the sacredness of all life because of reincarnation.**
2. True - man was originally a vegetarian (Gen 1:29.30), but Abel sacrificed the best of his flock & it was an acceptable offering. (Gen 4:1-7)
3. After the flood man was permitted to kill animals & to eat meat.
 - a. Gen 9:2.4 - **The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.**
 - b. **ILL: Peter's vision of the animals on Simon's rooftop (Act 10:9-16).**

C. What's the difference between animals & humans?

1. Human life is sacred - animal life is not!
2. The world would have you believe you are the product of naturalistic evolution - simply a superior animal.
3. God's word says you are created by God in His image & likeness (Gen 1:26-27).
 - a. Gen 5:1 - When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.
 - b. Gen 9:6 - Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.
 - c. I Cor 11:7 - A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man.
 - d. Jam 3:9 - With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.
4. God's word says He personally supervises your creation in your mother's womb! Ps 139:13-16 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

II. What Should This Mean to You?

A. Human life is sacred - treat it that way!

1. You are not to murder it.
2. You are not even to hate it!
 - a. Matt 5:21-22 - You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.
 - b. This passage continues on to say that if you are at odds with someone you need to make things right before you even come to church! (Matt 5:23,24)

B. How might this commandment affect your life?

1. Always reconcile your differences & forgive anyone you have a grudge against.
2. Pray for peace - that international disagreements might be settled diplomatically instead of on the battlefield.
3. Pray for the end of terrorism.
4. Pray for the Lord's Second Coming to happen soon so He will take control & bring eternal peace!