

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Commandment # 6 - Honor Human Life

Exodus 20:13

¹ The Sixth Commandment is to honor human life. ² Exodus, chapter 20, verse 13, says, **You shall not murder.** ³

I. What Did This Mean to Them?

What did this mean to the original recipients of this commandment? ⁴

Is the killing of a human being murder? Yes! ⁵

Murder, in the original language, ¹ means to kill a human being. To kill an animal is another word. ² This word was used for both pre-meditated murder and manslaughter. It did not apply to killing in combat or the government using capitol punishment. ⁶

In the Old Testament, the consequence seems to be really clear, **And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting**

¹ תרצח.

² זבח.

from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man.³

If anyone was accused of murder, they could flee to one of three Cities of Refuge to stand trial by an impartial tribunal. If found guilty of murder, they would be handed over to the next of kin of the victim to be executed. If found guilty of only manslaughter, they would have to stay in the City of Refuge until the high priest died. Then, they would be exiled someplace else.⁷

Is the killing of an animal murder? No!

Hindus, and some other religions, believe in the sacredness of all animated life because of their belief in reincarnation. Depending on the type of life you choose to live determines what type of “rebirth” you may experience in the next one. You could even be reincarnated as an animal.^{4 8}

³ Genesis 9:5-6.

⁴ [Reincarnation, Rebirth \(hinduismfacts.org\)](http://hinduismfacts.org) .

**It is true that God created mankind to be vegetarian.⁵
But Abel sacrificed the best of his flock, and it was an
acceptable offering.⁶ 9**

**After Noah's flood, man was permitted to kill animals
and to eat them. Genesis, chapter 9, verses 2 through
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.** 10

⁵ Genesis 1:29-30 - Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it — I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

⁶ Genesis 4:1-7 - Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

This command was reinforced in the New Testament. After the Lord's resurrection, the Apostle Peter was on a rooftop in Joppa praying and waiting for the afternoon meal to be prepared. He fell into a trance, the Bible says, and saw a vision of a group of unclean animals (according to Jewish kosher laws). A voice from heaven told him to kill and eat them. After Peter protested, the voice answered, **Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.** Not only did this clarify the Genesis, chapter 9 passage about eating animals, but paved the way for him to associate with gentiles (non-Jewish people)!^{7 11}

What's the difference between animals and humans?

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Human life is sacred. Animal life is not. 13

The secular world culture would have you believe you are the product of naturalistic evolution, simply a

⁷ Acts 10:9-16.

superior animal! ¹⁴ God's word says you are created by God in His image and likeness! ⁸ ¹⁵

Genesis, chapter 5, verse 1, **When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God**. ¹⁶ Genesis, chapter 9, verse 6, **Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man**. ¹⁷ First Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 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**. ¹⁸ James, chapter 3, verse 9, **With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness**. ¹⁹

God's word says He personally supervises your creation in your mother's womb! That's right! ²⁰ Psalm, chapter 139, verses 13 through 16, makes this pretty clear, **For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb**. I praise you

⁸ Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

because I 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. ²¹

II. What Should This Mean to You?

What should this mean to you? ²²

Human life is sacred. Treat it that way! ²³

You are not to murder it! ²⁴

You are not even to hate it! Lord Jesus said, 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. ⁹ ²⁵ This scripture continues on to say that if you are at odds

⁹ Matthew 5:21-22.

with someone, you need to make things right before you even go to church! ¹⁰ ₂₆

How might this commandment affect your life? ₂₇

Always reconcile your differences and forgive anyone you may have a grudge against. ₂₈

Pray for peace. Pray that international disagreements might be settled diplomatically instead of on the battlefield. ₂₉

Pray for the end of terrorism. Murdering solely for the excitement of killing is always wrong! ₃₀

Pray for the Lord's Second Coming to happen soon so He will take control and bring eternal peace!

<http://www.biblelifemessages.org>

¹⁰ Matthew 5:23-24 - "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."