

## THE HEART OF MURDER

Exodus 20:13      Jeff Schreve

*"You shall not murder."*

*Exodus 20:13*

Do you have questions about the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment?

### 1. Why did God give this command?

A. Man is made in the image of God.

*"And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings<sup>[a]</sup> in his own image. Genesis 9:5-6 NLT*

B. Man is not to put himself in the place of God.

*"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. 1 Samuel 2:6*

### 2. What does this command forbid?

A. This command forbids taking another person's life.

B. This command forbids taking an unborn baby's life.

**The predominance of human biological research confirms that human life begins at conception—fertilization. At fertilization, the human being emerges as a whole, genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species Homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment in order to grow and develop. The difference between the individual in its adult stage and in its zygotic stage is one of form, not nature. – American College of Pediatricians, March 2017**

C. This command forbids taking your own life.

1. An exclusion is legal execution.

*"If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death."*

*Numbers 35:30-31*

2. An exclusion is just war/law enforcement.

3. An exclusion is self-defense.

*"If a thief is caught breaking into a house at night and is killed, the one who killed him is not guilty of murder. But if it happens during the day, he is guilty of murder." Exodus 22:2 GNB*

**3. What does this command say to us at a deeper level?**

*"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell." Matthew 5:21-22*

A. We can break this commandment in our heart.

*For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:11-12, 15*

B. We can break this commandment with our approval.

*"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses." Acts 3:13-15*

C. We can be forgiven and changed by the power of Jesus.

*It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:15-16*

**As you search your heart, do you find hate and murder there?**