

SIXTH COMMANDMENT-MURDER

Today, the world is filled with hatred, violence, and murder, yet most people who profess to believe in and follow the teachings of the Bible claim that they are not required to strictly practice the Ten Commandments or any of the other 600 plus laws codified in the Bible. Few people seem to realize that the hatred, violence, and murder are a direct result of not practicing these laws.

Today, prisons are filled with people who are there to be punished for the unlawfully taking of another person's life. And many will spend the rest of their natural life locked away from society for their crime; While some will be released back into society for good behavior during their confinement.

People who profess to follow the teachings of the Bible are clearly divided into two categories: Those who believe that murders should be put to death and those who believe that murders should not be put to death. But which one of these beliefs is correct according to the Bible? Did Christ abolish the application of the death penalty for murder by his sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin?

The question of capital punishment for the crime of murder has caused many heated arguments. Some people believe the application of the death penalty for murder, is in itself murder, and a crime against the murderer and society. While others believe that to kill the murder is doing the murder and society a service?

But what does the Bible actually say about people who commit murder and the punishment that is to be applied? If you are a person who professes to follow Jesus Christ and believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, you might want to pay careful attention to the information contained in this broadcast; because, what the Bible actually says about the sixth commandment is not what is commonly taught today.

The sixth commandment simply says, "You shall not murder."

The unlawful termination of an individual's life, is perhaps the greatest offense that can be committed against a person. And according to God's law murder is a capital crime, which requires that the death penalty be applied to the murderer.

Many of God's laws concerning situations where an individual's misconduct causes another person to suffer a loss or damage require that the offending individual make restitution to the person who has suffered the loss or damage.

If someone steals another person's property. God's law requires that he thief return the stolen goods plus pay a fine to the offended party. However, if a person unlawfully takes a life it cannot be returned and it cannot be restored by the one who has taken it. According to Jesus, the greatest gift a man has to give is his life; therefore, the greatest possession that a person has is their life. This is one reason that the Creator God gave the commandment: "You shall not murder" (Ex.20:13 NIV).

The intention of the sixth commandment is to prevent the unlawful taking of a human life. Within the 613 plus laws contained in the Bible, there are both civil and criminal laws that govern behavior between people. And there are appropriate judgements and penalties for violations of these civil and criminal laws. God considers murder a capital crime and the punishment for murder is the death of the murderer.

In a conversation with Noah and his sons after the great flood, the Creator reminded them that he has given them animal flesh and vegetation to eat and explains that they must not eat blood and must not murder other people: God said:

"But flesh with the life in it, which is the blood of the flesh, you shall ye not eat. And surely the blood which is your life will I require; at the hand of every beast, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God man is made. Gen 9:3-6

Notice that the punishment for murder is death, which is to be administered by man. This tells us

that murder is a capital crime for which the punishment is the death of the murderer. However, in many societies and especially in the nations where the twelve tribes of Israel are predominant, and in which most of the citizens profess to follow the teaching of the Bible, God's instructions concerning the punishment of a murder, is either minimized or totally ignored.

What we see in many of the Israelitish nations, is the inhumane punishing of a murderer by imprisonment for the duration of their life, or the murderer is kept in prison for a few years, then released; thereby, giving the murder who has shown no respect for human life another opportunity to commit the same crime.

It does not take a biblical scholar to understand that the long or short imprisonment of a murderer is a violation of God's law concerning murder. Not only does the murderer not receive a just punishment for his crime, but the law abiding citizenry is punished twice for the murderer's crime. First they must pay for the process of the murder's capture and trial and second by having their wealth unjustly taken to house and otherwise care for the murderer's imprisonment.

The law of God is clear in the case of murder. When a person is guilty of killing another person unlawfully, the murderer is to be put to death for his crime.

God's law is not Harsh or unjust:

Is the law of God harsh and unjust toward the murderer? Not according to Psalm 19 that says:

Beginning in verse 7:

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward" (Psa.19:7-11 NIV).

The Ten Commandment and the other laws that the Creator God gave to mankind are perfectly suited to govern human behavior and if strictly practiced will bring peace, prosperity, and happiness. God's law needs no refinement or adjustment because they were perfectly designed to fit the human condition.

In our modern age of science, we know that there are laws which always function automatically: the laws of physics, chemistry, mathematics and all of the laws necessary to keep the solar system functioning and life continuing. If there is not conformity to these laws, disaster, death, and destruction will occur.

In exactly the same way, all of God's laws are a point of reference to which all people should look as a standard of behavior toward God and their fellow man. God's laws are empirical laws. Obedience to these laws will result in benefits, but disobedience results in penalties. (Deut.30:15-19).

God calls disobedience to these laws sin. The apostle Paul said that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. How serious is the crime of murder? The Book of Revelation chapter 21, verse 8, says this about the unrepentant murder.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev 21:8 KJV

Lawful Killing

Although, God is a god of love, he authorized the Israelites to kill individuals for the violation of his righteous law. However, this termination of human life was not murder, it was the punishment of wicked people for the violation of God's law, which he has set forth to govern the behavior of mankind.

God said to national Israel: "See now that I myself am He. There is no god besides me. I put to death

and I bring to life . . ." (Deut.32:39 NIV). Because the Creator had sovereign authority on the earth and over life and death, he gave those who sat in Moses seat of authority over life and death as they administered the law he gave to national Israel.

One of the prophecies in the Book of Isaiah clearly shows that this same system of judges will be established after Christ returns in order to administer God's law over national Israel and the rest of the earth.

God said through The prophet Isaiah:

"And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and your councilors as at the beginning:"

Will these judges have the same authority as the former judges of ancient Israel? Obviously they will, because if they do not, their existence will be useless.

Some people who profess to follow Biblical teachings believe that there are no circumstances which would justify the killing of another individual; however, these people are mistaken, because God's law and its application clearly teach capital punishment.

Under the agreement that the Creator God made with national Israel, there are many capital crimes such as murder, the striking of a parent, kidnaping, and cursing of ones parents, and refusal to respect follow a judgement rendered by Israel's judicial system. All of these crimes required the death penalty be administered to the guilty person.

Many people who claim to follow the teachings of the Bible seem to be oblivious to the fact that God is a god of law, and that all the laws he instituted to govern human behavior were given for the benefit of mankind, in order for people to live a peaceful, prosperous, and a happy life. And that the violation of any of these laws bring the opposite result.

The apostle Paul said that governments are authorized by God to enforce civil and criminal law and punish the wicked: Paul said, "Every one must submit himself to the governing authorities, for

there is no authority except that which God has established. . . . For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Rom.13:1-4 NIV).

Falsely Convicted

Although the biblical instruction clearly says that the murderer is to be put to death and that God has authorized civil governments to put murders to death. Many people will argue, how do you know for certain, if some one is actually guilty of murder? This is a good question and the answer is given in the Bible.

If people would study the Bible with an open mind, truly believe what it says, and then obey what it says from the heart, instead of superimposing their own philosophy over what it actually says, determining the guilt or innocence of a person would not be a problem.

Within God's law there are many instructions that guarantee that a correct judgement will be rendered in all manner of civil and criminal questions brought before the courts.

God's law demands that there must be at least two witness to murder, no circumstantial evidence is admissible.

But what if the witnesses purger themselves?

Because people are prone to lie for many reasons. God instituted a powerful incentive for a person to tell the truth. The law requires that when a purger is discovered he is to be given the punishment fitting the crime for which he bore false witness against the accused.

In the event of extremely difficult and complex cases. People were to bring them to the place where God had placed his name and there those authorized to beseech God for answers in such matters would render a decision from him.

Herein lies the major problem in today's world. Where is it that God places his name on earth today? And where are his righteous judges?

According to the apostle Paul the god of this world is Satan the devil, and he has blinded the minds of people who do not believe the message that Christ brought from his heavenly Father. And according to the Book of Revelation, it is Satan the devil who is deceiving this entire world. This powerful evil spirit known as the devil and other evil spirits are actively deceiving the entire world, political, philosophical, and religiously.

A part of Satan's deception, is the perversion of God laws concerning the punishment for criminal behavior and the institution of judicial systems which seldom dispense true justice and which are in opposition to the Judicial system authorized by God.

This powerful evil spirit does not want the laws of God practiced in the world. He hates truth, justice, and God's way of life for humanity. And this is why there are so many confusing and complex legal systems in the world today.

While speaking to the Pharisees Jesus said:

"Why do you not understand my speech? Is it because you cannot hear my words? You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:43-44

Who did Satan murder. Well the first two people he murdered were Adam and Eve. In order to kill them, he purposely lied to Eve and told her that she and Adam would not die if they ate the forbidden fruit. Therefore, murdered them with a lie.

Satan is very effective at deception, because he mixes truth into his lies. God always tells the truth (Heb.6:18).

Satan's goal is to confuse mankind by telling a mixture of truths, half-truths and outright lies. Most of humanity including counterfeits of true

Christianity follow this same pattern of deception by mixing truth with untruth to serve their own purpose.

Can God's law concerning murder and the punishment of a murderer be totally applied today? The answer is, no it cannot. However, if people would truly obey God, his system of justice could be instituted. But the prospect of this happening before Christ returns, is slim and none.

What Jesus Said

Centuries ago when Jesus came to earth, he expanded the definition of murder past the letter of the law into the spirit of the law, just as the prophet Isaiah said he would.

Jesus said concerning the sixth commandment:

"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 without cause will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell" (Matt.5:21-22 NIV).

The Greek word 'raca' and the English word 'fool' in Matthew 5:22 show that murder reaches past the physical act and is a part of a mental process.

The Greek word 'raca' corresponds to a very derogatory Aramaic insult that, in essence, means 'you blockhead' or 'you idiot.' The use of the word 'raca' expressed great displeasure, disregard, anger, or contempt for another person. The English word 'fool' is translated from the Greek word 'moros', which means 'dull' or 'stupid.' Both of these words are meant to insult another person and to show one's utter contempt for the life of another person.

It is clear from the context of what Jesus' says that, if a person has or expresses feelings toward another person that are inconsistent with a godly attitude, that person is guilty of a crime against the other person. In the extreme case that person is guilty of murder and worthy of the second death in

the Lake of Fire.

As with every action, the actions that lead to murder have a beginning. Anger and disrespect for another person are steps toward murder.

The apostle Paul give some good advice to the elect at Ephesus when he said to them:

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold" (Eph.4:26-27 NIV).

To the Colossians he said:

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. . . put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Col.3:8-10 NIV).

Jesus Christ came to save mankind, to soften the hardness of people's hearts, and to change people's attitudes toward each other. God's holy spirit is the spirit of love, in which there is no room for uncontrolled anger.

The apostle James said:

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires" (Jms.1:19-20 NIV).

More is required of one than simply to not murder just because of fear of punishment, which according to God's law, is the death. God requires people to control their anger toward each other. In most cases, there is more than one step from anger to murder. Anger toward another person can lead to intense feelings of dislike and judging another person as worthless (raca).

The apostle James said:

"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, and judges the law: but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a

judge" (Jms.4:11).

When anyone judges his brother in this manner, they are setting themselves above God's law and judging the law. According to James. People who do this are suppressing love and are allowing hatred to enter into their heart and mind.

The final step toward murder is to think of a fellow human as worthless, which is the same as judging someone as being a sinner and unworthy of life.

The apostle John said, "Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him" (1.Jn.3:15 NIV).

A person who hates someone is a murderer even if they do not commit the act of murder. According to Jesus, the way to keep from being a murderer is to practice forgiveness and reconciliation (Matt.6:14-15; 5:23-24). All those who have God's holy spirit have the power and ability to love both their brother and their enemy.

Today, professing Christianity is one of the world's largest religions with over 20,000 different organizations and congregational associations that claim to worship and serve the God of the Bible and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. However, today as in the past, many people in these competing churches and organizations have tremendous disrespect and hatred for other professing Christians who do not share their particular beliefs on a given subject.

Past and present history of popular Christianity is not pretty picture, it reveals a violent past and many present violent conflicts over biblical ideology. This alone should tell one that there is something terribly wrong with the belief system of most biblically based religions as practiced since the demise and disappearance of the apostolic church.

The point is, that the reason for most of the hatred, violence, and murder within professing Christian nations is a reflection of the hypocrisy of those who profess to believe and teach what the Bible says concerning, attitudes, behaviors, and the punishment of crime of all types. If this were not true the nations

which are predominantly occupied with professing Christians would be more peaceful and have less crime.

The apostle John said the following concerning the root cause that leads to murder and people who profess to follow the teachings of the Bible:

"He that says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is still in darkness. He that loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no occasion for him to stumble. But he that hates his brother is in darkness, and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." 1 John 2:9-11

John also said:

"Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." 1. John 3:15

John also said:

"If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 1 John 4:20

The fact that there is so much conflict and hatred among the biblical based religions of today, should cause one to wonder where God's true church is today and who is actually teaching the truth of the Bible?

A New Agreement Promised

If the Bible is God's words put to print. Which I believe it is. Then there is a tremendous need for the prophecy concerning a new covenant between God and national Israel as recorded in the book of Jeremiah to be fulfilled:

Because national Israel had great difficulty obeying God and broke their initial agreement, which they had made with him at Mount Sinai, God promised that he would someday make a new agreement with them, and that this new agreement would be much easier for them to keep, because it would have much

better terms and conditions.

Jeremiah chapter 31, tells us of this new agreement with national Israel, beginning in verse 31:

"Behold the day comes, says the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of mine they broke, although I was a husband to them, says the Lord" (vs.31-32).

Because ancient Israel of the original covenant is not a nation today, and her descendants are scattered throughout the nations of the earth, Just when and with whom will God establish this new covenant?

Continuing in verse 33:

"And this shall be the covenant [agreement] that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jer.31:33 Para.). See also Ezk 16:59-62; 36:27.

Notice that the new contract will be made "after those days." The phrase "after those days" refers to the time after God's wrath is poured out on humanity at the end of this age, and after Christ returns as conquering King. Therefore, this new contract will be made with a new nation of Israel.

At Jesus' second coming, the Sovereign Father's laws will be written in the hearts and minds of all people who want to obey his way of life, and they will practice these and live happy and prosperous life under his care and protection, just as ancient Israel did when they first became a nation. Then people will truly understand the sanctity of human life. And truly understand why murder is a capital crime punishable by death.

THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

In Matthew 22 Jesus Christ says that the whole law was held together by just two commandments:

A lawyer asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus answered, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And second is like to it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt.22:33-40 KJV).

The first great commandment is to "love God with all your heart." What does it mean to love God with your heart?

The Heart

The Bible indicates that the heart is one's mind. It is the very center of one's being and the place where thoughts are formulated and refined in order to mold one's character and direct one's actions.

The Bible tells us that in its natural state the basic nature and thought process of a human opposes that which is godly and needs to be transformed to a holy state in order to truly please God and truly conform to his laws and way of life. When this happens, a person can truly love God with all their heart, and being.

Jesus said that the second great commandment is like the first: He said, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matt.22:39 NIV).

The second Great Commandment also commands us to love. It instructs us to love our neighbor as ourselves. The whole law is performed by loving God and loving one's neighbor. All the other commandments and laws of God that are meant to govern the behavior of humanity toward God and fellow humans are built upon the foundation of these two Great Commandments.

"God said to Moses, . . . Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the Lord. Do

not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord" (Lev.19:1-18 NIV).

Jesus said:

"Do to others as you would have them do to you . . . But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked . . . Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Lk.6:31, 35, 37 NIV).

Indeed, the Ten Commandments along with the other 613 plus of God's laws are a tremendous blessing to mankind when strictly practiced. These laws foster happy families, and peaceful, safe, and prosperous societies; which is what God wants all people to have. But today, there are only a very few people on earth who are truly attempting to live in conformity to God's laws and way of life.

These people are the vanguard of the future and will have a part in teaching God's law and way of life to all of humanity after Christ returns.

When one is able to perform the two Great Commandments, one has performed all of the things God desires one to do, and the rest of the commandments and laws of God will become easy to perform. Moreover, one will have met all of the righteous demands contained in the Law and the prophets.

If one truly understands the two Great Commandments, one will have no trouble understanding why it is necessary to obey all of God's laws as set forth in the Bible, and that these laws were not abolished by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

EXAMINE YOURSELF

time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org.

To what extent do you personally love God and your fellow man? To love God with all your heart means to have a mind that has been cleansed from all sin, purged of false teachings and evil behaviors that lead to darkness and death, and to be filled with the goodness of God that will bring everlasting life.

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In order to truly love God one must be striving to have one's entire life subject to the will of God. Moreover, one must love God with all of one's being and be a good steward of whatever things that God has given one to possess.

The apostle John said, " This is how we know that we love the children of God: When we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not a burden." 1 John 5:2-3 KJV

God gave his law to the Israelites for their benefit. It was designed to bring them happiness, joy, and prosperity during their lifetime. However, the Israelites were not willing to accept these laws as an expression of his love for them; instead, they rebelled in their hearts, minds, and attitudes:

God said in Deuteronomy chapter 5:

"Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!" (Deut.5:29 NIV).

Today the question for anyone who truly seeks to reap the benefits of a relationship with God the Father and his son the Savior of humanity is, Are you willing to seek forgiveness for violating God's law and seek to practice it with your whole being?

THE CHOICE IS YOURS - CHOOSE LIFE!

I see that my time is up, if you want to know more about God's laws, precepts, and principles or the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the at the address given in the following announcement. Until next