

## **The 10 Commandments: How Life Works**

VI: Do not Murder (Exodus 20:13)

### **Ice Breaker Question:**

Why do you think people find the subject of murder (in novels, movies and news items, for instance) so intriguing?

### **Going Deeper from Sunday**

#### ***Sermon Synopsis***

The sixth commandment tells us not to murder. Murder is crime against God because 1) God alone is the giver of life, and therefore God alone should be the one who can take it away, and 2) taking the life of another is destroying one who is made in God's image. While few of us would say we are literally guilty of murder, many of us do things that damage others who are made in the image of God.

Share any reflections/questions that may have arisen from the sermon on Sunday.

#### **Going Deeper**

The 6th, 7th, and 8th commandments (Exodus 20:13-15) contain only 2 words each in Hebrew--the equivalent of "No murder. No adultery. No stealing." How would you describe the general effect of such terse language?

Of all crimes human beings can commit, why is murder considered the worst?

#### **Read Gen 9:5-6**

The command here not to murder was one the initial commands given to Noah after leaving the ark. What is the key principle provided here for why we should not take another life?

How should seeing every person as being made in the image of God affect the way we treat other people?

### **Read Matthew 5:21-24**

In the sermon on the mount, Jesus takes many of the commandments and broadens and intensifies them. He is speaking to an audience that assumes they have kept God's laws because they have followed the 'letter' of the commandments. Jesus teaches that the internal state of our heart is as important to God as our outward behavior.

In what sense do you think the inward state of our heart breaks God's commandments?

What is in our hearts when call someone a fool or *raca*?

("Raca" and "fool" are terms of abuse. *Raca* simply means "stupid," and questions the mental competence of the other person. *Fool*, pierces still deeper and questions the moral competence of the other.)

What are some other ways we can injure people with our words and actions, and thereby treat them in ways that don't reflect their precious value as God's image bearers?

What are some practical ways we can change this behavior? (*treat people with "honor," view people as God views them, seek forgiveness when we have wronged another*)

In vv. 23-24, how is Jesus relating our worship to our relationship with others?

Are there specific people who come to mind to whom God may be nudging you to "go, and be reconciled"?

(Note, some questions are taken from Rob Suggs IV guide: The 10 Commandments)