

# **“The Sanctity of Human Life”**

## **Exodus 20:13**

Pastor John Miller

### **I. Introduction**

- A. “Thou shalt not kill or murder” (v. 13)
  - 1. With this sixth commandment, God establishes the sanctity of human life
    - a) If the family is in trouble, so is society
    - b) The rejection of God = the breakdown of the family
      - 1) The breakdown in society
        - a. Violence (v. 13)
          - i. “Thou shalt not murder”
        - b. Sexual immorality (v. 14)
          - i. “Thou shalt not commit adultery
      - c) Oh, how we need to heed these words given by God 3500 years ago
      - d) God’s laws liberate us for life

### **II. What This Commandment is Not**

- A. It is not a prohibition of all forms of killing
  - 1. It is literally “murder”
  - 2. The Hebrew word stresses the deliberate taking of a human life
- B. It is not the killing of animals for food
  - 1. (Genesis 9:3)
  - 2. Jesus ate fish
- C. It is not capital punishment
  - 1. (Genesis 9:6)
  - 2. (Romans 13:4)
- D. It is not the fighting of a just war
  - 1. It is the deliberate taking of a human life
  - 2. Illustration- (Deuteronomy 20)

### **III. Why is the Taking of a Human Life Condemned?**

- A. God is the source and giver of life (v. 1)
  - 1. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7)
- B. God is the sustainer of life
  - 1. “For in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28)
- C. God is the taker of life
  - 1. (Job 1:21)
- D. God made man in His image
  - 1. “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27)
  - 2. Not evolution

3. All human life is precious because all human beings are made by God in God's image
4. Today, we see the devaluing of human life because we have forgotten God
  - a) Our culture is humanistic and materialistic
  - b) If man is not made in the image of God, nothing then stands in the way of his inhumanity. There is no good reason why mankind should be perceived as special, and human life is cheapened
  - c) (Genesis 9:6)
    - 1) What does that mean?
    - 2) Murder is sacrilege or a violation of what is sacred
      - a. Jesus said, "Love God, and love your neighbor"
      - b. (John 8:44)

#### **IV. What are the Ways this Command is Broken?**

##### **A. Homicide**

1. There are around 24-27 thousand homicides in the United States annually
2. Illustration- Soon after the fall, (Genesis 4) Cain murdered his brother Abel

##### **B. Suicide**

1. 47,000 annually in the United States
2. It is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10-25
3. God forgives

##### **C. Genocide**

1. Ethnic cleansing
2. Illustration- The Jewish Holocaust
  - a) Rwanda
  - b) Kosovo
  - c) Uganda
  - d) Cambodia
3. Illustration- Hamman in the book of Esther

##### **D. Feticide**

1. The murder of a human fetus
  - a) Also known as abortion
  - b) The word "fetus" is Latin for "baby"
  - c) It is a human fetus at the moment of conception
  - d) I believe abortion is the breaking of the sixth commandment
    - 1) No matter how you view it
      - a. Scientifically
      - b. Rationally
      - c. Biblically
2. What are some of the arguments we hear today for abortion?
  - a) It is a woman's body
    - 1) The human fetus has its own unique genetic code in each of its cells. It is not the mother's code or the father's code. It has its own code
    - 2) The fetus is in the mother; it is not part of the mother
  - b) It is not fully developed
    - 1) Neither is a two-year-old!

2) What about an amputee?

E. Infanticide

1. The homicide rate for infants from 2017 to 2020 was 7.11% per 100,000 births

F. Euthanasia

1. In 2017, a Gallup Poll found that 73% of U.S. adults supported euthanasia

G. What if you have broken the command?

1. God will forgive you!

a) Illustration- Moses

b) Illustration- David

c) Illustration- Paul

1) (1 John 1:9)

## **V. You Might be Feeling Pretty Good About Yourself**

A. “I have never murdered anybody”

1. What did Jesus have to say about this command?

a) (Matthew 5:21-22)

2. “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer” (1 John 3:15)

B. What should you do?

1. Recognize your sin

2. Repent of your sin

3. Receive God’s forgiveness

4. Forgive others