



Thinking Like a Christian 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Sixth and Seventh Commandments: Murder and Adultery

Reminder: Fear – Flee – Follow

Ten Words...

### 1. You shall not murder

What the commandment means: killing another human being, including accidental, not including war, execution and self-defence.

### 2. Murder and the image of God

Genesis 4:1-10	Why do you think Cain murdered Abel? (Discuss). What is God's response to Abel's murder (v10)?
Genesis 9:5-6	What is God's response to murder in general?

It is terrifying that the first sin in the Bible is taking a fruit... and the second is murder. Why does this happen?

Only God has life from himself

Being the image of God is about being a life-receiver

All sin is murder – destruction of the image of God

If we refuse to receive life from God, we will end up taking it from others.

To refuse to worship God is embrace the principle of murder.

### 3. Valuing God, valuing life

*"Travelling abroad for the purpose of assisted dying is a reasonable excuse and so anyone doing so would not be breaking the law." – Matt Hancock, Health secretary, in the House of Commons 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

Atheism tries to elevate humanity, but in fact destroys it.

Euthanasia / Assisted suicide

Abortion

Compare to commandment 5:

Parenthood says "I give my life for yours" – why it is so God-imaging

Murder says "I take your life for mine"

(Even suicide!)

### 4. Anger

Matthew 5:21-22	Why does Jesus say anger is as bad as murder?
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So what is forbidden by the commandment? Think of as many ways as you can that we try to advance our lives at the expense of others...

## 5. You shall not commit adultery

Includes all sexual immorality: sexual acts outside of the faithful marriage of one man and one woman.

Marriage and the image of God:

Genesis 1:27: Male and female

Genesis 2:18-25 'A helper fit for him', 'hold fast' to his wife, 'one flesh', 'naked and not ashamed'

Therefore this forbids

fornication (sex while unmarried), adultery (sex while married with someone other than your husband/wife), promiscuity, prostitution, sodomy (gay sex), polygamy and polyandry (more than one living wife or husband, either at one time or one after another), divorce and remarriage (except in very limited circumstances)...

But this is not a negative law!

It is the very opposite. It is the definition of real love

Marriage = I give my life for yours (including sexual union, which is life-giving in the most profound way)

Sexual immorality = I take your life for mine.

*Pornography is a murder from the heart... Reducing the human person to an instrument for our pleasure is to wish in our hearts that they simply did not exist as persons.<sup>1</sup>*

*- What do you think this author is saying? Do you agree? In what ways is adultery like murder?*

A word on 'Two consenting adults' – Why two? Why adults? And it's never just two.

## 6. Lust

Matthew 27-30      How can Jesus say lust is as bad as adultery?

So what action should we take?

## 7. Jesus: His life for ours

The opposite of murder: Mark 10:45

The opposite of adultery: Ephesians 5:25-27

*Just two this week. How do these statements break the commandments? Why can Christians not think like this? Think of as many reasons and angles as possible.*

*"I hate Donald Trump."*

*"What possible harm can it be for me and my girlfriend to sleep together? We love each other."*

<sup>1</sup> 'How Pornography Makes Us Less Human and Less Humane', Matthew Lee Anderson August 26, 2019 <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/pornography-human-humane/>