

“Thou Shalt Not Kill”: Its Spirit, Depth, and Understanding

The voice of the Almighty split the heavens once more, delivering a concise, razor-sharp decree that forms the ultimate protective boundary around human life. Having established the foundation of authority within the family, the Author of Life turned His attention to the preservation of His own image. The sixth commandment issued an absolute ban on unlawful bloodshed, declaring that human life is a sacred monopoly owned exclusively by the Creator.

“Thou shalt not kill.” — Exodus 20:13

To the legalist, this commandment is quickly checked off as a box that applies only to murderers, hitmen, or violent criminals. However, the linguistic and spiritual depth of this text (*lo tirtzach* in Hebrew, meaning the unlawful taking of human life) cuts far below physical acts of violence. Because mankind is uniquely created in the image and likeness of the Creator, the spiritual depth of this commandment reveals that to hate, diminish, defame, or harbor malicious anger against another human being is to attack the image of God Himself.

Sacrosanct Design: How Protecting the Image of God Makes Him Your God

To have God as your God means you view human life through the lens of His supreme ownership. You do not possess the right to devalue what He has chosen to create and sustain. To keep this commandment in spirit is to actively honor, protect, and cultivate the safety and dignity of human life at every stage, recognizing that every human being is a physical monument to the Living Creator.

“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.” — Genesis 9:6

“When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.” — Deuteronomy 22:8

By aggressively defending the lives and souls of others, we demonstrate that we serve the God of the living, submitting our personal anger, vengeance, and malice to His absolute justice.

The Internal Weapon: How Culturally Sanctioned Malice Serves Another God

The ultimate violation of the sixth commandment occurs when individuals or societies adopt laws, cultural standards, and personal philosophies that normalize the destruction or devaluation of human life. When a civilization sanitizes murder through human legislation—such as child sacrifice in the ancient world or modern abortion and state-sanctioned euthanasia—they are sacrificing human life upon the altar of human convenience and utility.

On a personal level, if we discard God's law of love to harbor deep-seated hatred, bitterness, or malicious gossip that destroys a person's reputation and soul, we are operating in the exact spirit of murder. We are serving the god of self-preservation and wrath.

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."
— Matthew 5:21–22

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." — 1 John 3:15

Conclusion: Champions of the Living

The spiritual depth of the Sixth Commandment establishes that we cannot love the Creator while simultaneously harboring a contempt for His creation. To truly have Him as our God, we must reject the culture of death, anger, and malice that defines human history.

When we participate in, excuse, or culturally codify the destruction of human life—or when we unleash the venom of hatred and unchecked anger from our hearts—we violate the sacred image of the King. We serve the ultimate destroyer. To fully honor this commandment, we must become fierce guardians of human life, purge the spirit of malice from our thoughts, and walk in the life-giving love and righteousness demanded by the Sovereign Lord.