

PRO-LIFE!

Exodus 20:13

Understanding Murder... The Hebrew word “ratzach” is never used in reference to capital punishment, military combat, or the hunting of animals. This word is best translated as murder – the unjustified taking of innocent human life. Every nation prohibits murder to some extent because it is self-evidently harmful to the continuation of society, but the Bible prohibits murder because man is made in the image of God (Genesis 9:6).

A Culture of Death... Our society is undoubtedly plummeting into a self-destructive obsession with murder, violence, and death. A brief look at media and statistics demonstrates this sad fact.

Murderous Hearts... It is easy for us to look at our culture with disdain, but have we examined our own hearts? According to Jesus, we are murderers if we have been sinfully angry with another (Mtt. 5:21-22). We are all condemned by this high standard (Rom. 3:10-18).

Grace for Murderers... We all stand guilty before a holy God but thankfully, the Bible promises forgiveness to all who will repent and believe in Jesus. As forgiven murderers, we are able to live in a new way, protecting and preserving life (Colossians 3:8-12).

Questions for Discussion:

- 1.** Why is the image of God in mankind significant to the 6th commandment?
- 2.** How do you struggle to keep the 6th commandment?
- 3.** What new attitudes do you need to adopt?
- 4.** In what practical ways is Christ leading you to be a protector and preserver of life?

(Reading/Meditation: Exodus 20:14 & Mtt. 5:27-30)