

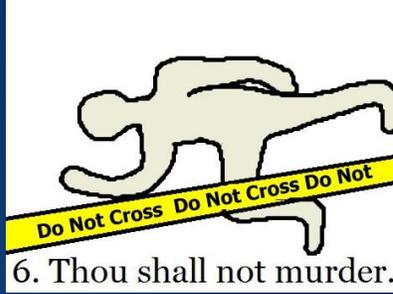


# You Shall Not Murder

## 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

EXODUS 20:13

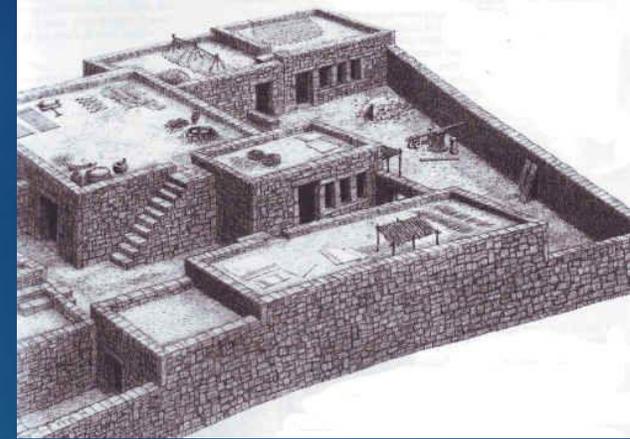
# The Easiest Commandment to Keep?



- ▶ What if I told you it is one of the **hardest** to keep?
- ▶ After a commandment concerning family, the next one is about **human interaction**, i.e. doing harm to one another (doing good too)
- ▶ The ultimate form of harm—**murder**. Nevertheless there are many other ways we can do harm to each other.
- ▶ Chief among them is our **anger** as Jesus addressed the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment (Matt. 5:21-26)

# What is “Kill”?

- ▶ There are two words in Hebrew for **killing**
- ▶ Although both words can be translated as *killing*, the word in here is better rendered as *murder* or *unlawful killing*
- ▶ Biblically there are two categories of homicide:
- ▶ **Murder**, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree have no major difference biblically (Exo. 21:14; Deut. 19:11-13)
- ▶ **Negligent Homicide** (Exo. 21:28-29; Deut. 22:8)



# What Is or Isn't Murder?

- ▶ (Exo. 22:2-3) **Self defence** is not murder
- ▶ (Luke 3:14) Exercising justice **lawfully** is not murder
- ▶ Note: The Bible does not have direct reference concerning suicide, abortion, and euthanasia. We can **imply** from several Biblical **principles** and **teachings** (e.g. Psa. 139:13) that these practices are sinful. But beware of **implication** as there may (or may not) be exceptions based on other biblical principles. **Ethics** can be very complicated.



# A New Standard

- ▶ (Matt. 5:21-26) In Jesus' teaching of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, His focus was rather on **anger** and **human conflict**. This not only gives us insight on God's intention for this commandment relating to **human interaction**. It also allows us to apply this commandment more broadly.
- ▶ What God wants us to do is not just to stop murdering one another. Rather it is for us to **heal** our relationships with one another (Col. 3:12-14).



# When We Are Angry



- ▶ In Matthew, Jesus points out the key path:
- ▶ First, we should not **act** on our anger (v.21-22) not just in action, but also verbally. A “verbal killing” can still hurt. (Psa. 4:4; Pro. 14:29)
- ▶ Second, our relationship with others will **affect** our relationship with God. Therefore, do not let our anger **linger** (Eph. 4:26-27).
- ▶ Third, we need to humbly **take action** in reconciliation (Col. 3:12-15).

# Conclusion: Not Just A Civil Code



- ▶ “Murder not” is a very good base for any civil code and no one will argue with it. But it is only the **bare minimum**. The scripture continues to build on it.
- ▶ Jesus has given us both the insight and importance on **reconciliation** (Matt. 5:21-26) as He has reconciled with us (Col. 1:20-22).
- ▶ (Rom. 13:8-10) Ultimately it is **love** that we need to strive for, not just to stop hurting each other