

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Terry Joe Kee

"Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13)

The sixth commandment turns to showing reverence for human life. God places a great premium on human life. There is a sacredness that God places on the life given to every human being. When we say "sacredness of life" we are dealing with something so precious one would lay down his life for it. For example, man's loyalty to Christ, his love for the truth or his fidelity to his duty. Man himself is sacred because he is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26ff; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 9:6).

This law that is given is for a nation, living under God, even as in a nation such as ours. "Thou shalt not kill" places a sanctity on life, but do not think this forbids capital punishment. The law itself, demanded capital punishment in many cases. Just reading Exodus 21 and 22 will tell us God commands capital punishment in certain circumstances. For example, if a man smites and kills another, he is to be put to death (Exo. 21:12). Or if one should smite his father or mother, he should be put to death (Exo. 21:15). Or if he curses his father or mother, he should be put to death (Exo. 21:17). Human trafficking was punishable by death (Exo. 21:16). If someone was careless knowing his ox was prone to goring and someone is killed by the ox, the owner was to be put to death (compare this to someone today killing another by drunk driving or in any other careless way). Sorcerers and idolators were to be put to death (Exo. 21:18,20). If someone was so depraved as to lie with a beast, he was to be put to death (Exo. 21:19).

There are even laws given by God which would bring the sword into the land as God's judgment against all the earth when they violated His will (Isaiah 24; Isaiah 26). God promised great judgments upon all who become so violent and wicked (Isa. 26:21). When Israel turned away from God, he promised to bring death upon them (Hosea 4:1-3). God even pronounced His judgment against Jerusalem with His four judgments of sword, famine, beast, and pestilence (Ezek. 14:21). God decreed that for many death would be certain and swift.

There were provisions made for accidental killings. God set up six cities of refuge to provide for those who may have killed accidentally (cf. Num. 35). But these cities were no haven for murderers. The altars and sacrifices could not protect them from their murdering (Exo. 21:14).

Finally, let us note that this commandment does not forbid men or nations from going to war. The same God who said, "Thou shalt not kill," is the one who required of His people not to spare the inhabitants of the land He was giving them. He even gave them orders concerning warfare and how to conduct themselves in war (Deut. 20; Jud. 6:16). Do not forget what God commanded Saul to do to the Amalekites; he was to utterly destroy them (I Sam. 15). He had the kingdom taken from him because he did not totally destroy them all.

Lest someone should say, "Well, that was in the Old Testament," please notice Paul's inspired instruction concerning civil government's place in a Christian's life (Rom. 13:1-7). The sword is an implement of death and is placed by God in the hand of civil government. Governments have the authority given to them by God to put evildoers to death. Without any controversy, murder is forbidden in the New Testament. We have a better covenant, with better promises (Rom. 13:9; I Pet. 4:15,16). The New Testament gets beyond the specific act of murder, to the heart behind a murder. In this way the New Testament is emphasizing the sacredness of life as did the Law of Moses.

(Continued on page 3)

Jesus teaches us that the origin of these acts must be corrected. Murders begin in the heart. When the heart is not right someone will take another one's life. Jesus warns us to get our hearts right with God in order to save us from such sins as murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies..." (Matt. 15:19). Jesus, in the sermon on the mount, warns His followers against disregarding man by showing disrespect and contempt for another (Matt. 5:21,22). The same word that is used of Satan being a murderer (John 8:44) is used by John to refer to anyone who hates his brother (I John 3:15). The final consequence and end of all murderers of every kind is a lake of fire (Rev. 21:8; Rev. 22:15).

Man today desperately needs to retain and maintain a respect for God as our Creator. If we do this, we will have a respect for the sacredness of every human life. When we stop to think for a minute, no one would want to think about spending his eternity in Hell surrounded by those described in Revelation 21:8. The only way to escape such an end is to obey the gospel and be faithful to God unto the end.

We do well to remember, "Thou shalt not kill."

Building Biblical Character Takes The Right Ingredients!

Ron Hall

[Editor's Note: The simple definition of character is the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual....personality, nature, disposition, temperament, temper, mentality, psychology, psyche]

No doubt we have reached a point in our society where handling our problems have become a problem within itself. I believe life is simple, it's not that complicated! It's either Right or Wrong; Good or Evil; Light or Darkness, etc. I know you have heard the old saying; "It's not the problem, It's have you handle them!" Some problems can be pretty complicated but not impossible to solve. In the story of Jesus healing the blind man, as doubters looked on He said ... "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). When Jesus addressed the rich young ruler about what he would have to do to serve Him, His response caused his disciples to question how anyone could be saved... "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). So the question arises "How can we solve our problems without creating other more serious problems?" Here is where it is simple. Handle our problems God's way and not our way! "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23)... "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8). It is either God's way or my way! Consider the Wise man and the Foolish man in Matthew 7:24-27. The wise man built his life by doing what God said to do, while the foolish man built his life ignoring what God said to do. When the storms of life came, and they will, the wise man's life stood firm while the foolish man's life crumbled. It is not just knowing God's word but DOING it! Developing Biblical Character is the key to dealing with any problem we face in life. The Bible is filled with principles and commands from God that will help us when the problems come. There are some key Scriptures that we need to focus on as we develop strong Biblical character. In no particular order... (1) The sermon on the mount - Matthew chapters 5-7 (2) The Be-Attitudes - Matthew 5:3-12 (3) Christian Graces - 2 Peter 1:1-11 (4) - The works of the flesh - Galatians 5:16-21 (5) The attributes that all Christians should possess - "The Fruit of the Spirit" - Galatians 5:22-26 (6) Be not conformed to this world - Romans 12:1-21. While there are many other Scriptures that could be listed these are a good place to start in building a strong Biblical Character. Please study the article below in light of how your character compares with that which God wants in us. We can develop a Biblical character if we will learn God's word and do it!

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Wanda Cashion is in Belle Meade in Paragould continuing her rehab.

Lanafae Stephens will be having additional surgery January 21st.

Rachel Barnett is improving after having Covid and being confined to home.

Andy Taylor, Sheryl's son, is in NEA Baptist, Room 3202.

Terri Lynn Buck, Leah Brewer's cousin, is dealing with health problems and upcoming surgery.

Please continue to pray for all of these and others who are at home recovering from recent surgeries, confinement, or bereavement.

IN OTHER NEWS:

“Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” (Hebrews 10:24)

Ukraine Missions Buckets: January items are baby powder and small Bibles.

Congregational Meeting with the elders for everyone after evening services tonight.

Copies of the directory are on a table by the picture board. Please look at your information and either mark ok or make necessary corrections, please.

Those Privileged To Serve January 16, 2022

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt
Closing Prayer: David Dye
Bible Reading: Barry Roush
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mike Felts
Jerry Dodson Dan Nichols
Scottie Blanchard Jeff Presley
Donnie Gilliland Hayden Roush

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Kevin Roush
Opening Prayer: Caleb Krimmel
Closing Prayer: James Johnson
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 19, 2022
Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: Logan Snyder
Closing Prayer: Steve Stoker

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 19, 2022
Ben Johns

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of January 9, 2022

Sunday Bible Study	87
Sunday AM Worship	110
Sunday PM Worship	75
Wednesday Bible Study	84
Contribution	\$4666

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

Proverbs 27:6

The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

My Own Headline

Author Unknown

SOMETIMES I JUST WANT IT TO STOP. Talk of Covid, protests, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced that this “new normal” is real life.

But then I meet an 87-year-old who talks of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, and protests, and yet is still enchanted with life. He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. “No,” he said slowly, looking me straight in the eyes. “I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines; I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines.”

“Husband Loves Wife Today.” “Family Drops Everything to Come to Grandma’s Bedside.”

He patted my hand. **“Old Man Makes New Friend.”** His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit.

My headline now reads, **“Woman Overwhelmed by the Spirit of Kindness and the Reminder that Our Capacity to Love is Never Ending.”**

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Stacy Eddleman
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Scott Pratt
Kevin Roush
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Samrit Kammanee,
Southeast Asia
Micah Robertson,
Montana
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God
John 8:24

Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus
as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the
remission of your sins
Acts 2:38

Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

“Therefore if any man be in
Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away;
behold, all things are become
new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)

Living Anew In 2022