

“The Big TEN ~ 6<sup>th</sup> commandment” 5.02.10

The Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro, TN has translated the K J V of the ‘10 Commandments’ into its native tongue.

This fresh-simple translation of the ‘Big 10’ actually hangs on a wall of this church:

1. Just one God
  2. Put nothin’ before God
  3. Watch yer mouth
  4. Git yourself to Sunday meetin’
- 1<sup>st</sup> (4) commandments deal with  
our relationship to God
- =====
5. Honor yer Ma & Pa ~ we will get to this (1) next week for Mother’s Day
  6. No killin’
  7. No foolin’ around with another fellow’s gal.
  8. Don’t take what ain’t yers
  9. No tellin’ tales or gossipin’
  10. Don’t be hankerin’ for yer buddy’s stuff
- Last (6) commandments deal  
with our relationship to others

Jesus SUMMED UP the ‘10 Commandments’ like this:

Matthew 22: 36 – 40 or p. 753 in pew Bible

It’s where WRCC’s VISION statement comes from: Loving God, Loving Others - Together

This week’s message will focus on the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Let’s read it together...

- I. 6<sup>th</sup> commandment = “You must not murder.”
  - A. Exodus 20: 13 or p. 59 in pew Bible
    1. This 1 commandment is filled with controversial issues; highly debated ?’s:
      - a. Is it right to kill in self-defense?
      - b. What about war?
      - c. What about capital punishment?
      - d. What about euthanasia?
      - e. What about abortion & suicide?
    2. Difficult questions for any of us, to answer ~ these issues are highly charged & volatile; filled with pain; that deserve thoughtful biblical answers.

So let’s see what the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment meant in ancient times & what it means for us today.

- B. 1611 version King James Bible translated the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment
  1. “Thou shalt not kill.”
    - a. The traditional rendering of this verse is somewhat misleading; some people have misapplied this verse to all killing.
    - b. Hermeneutical principle = how we interpret the text; Holy scripture

The Bible is always its best interpreter: IF you really want to know what the Bible is teaching about something; look at the verse in context, & then compare it to other verses that relate to the same subject.

- c. Because all of the Bible ~ all of scripture is the inspired word of God, & it will not contradict itself!
  - 2. Consequently, the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment cannot be interpreted as an absolute ban on all killing.
    - a. Too many examples given in scripture of when 'killing is acceptable,' & when killing is considered murder.
    - b. Let's see what God's word says about this volatile commandment: what's 'acceptable killing' & what's considered 'murder.'
- II. 6<sup>th</sup> commandment ~ DOES NOT prohibit killing when it's...

A. SELF-DEFENSE

- 1. Self-Defense is not murder in Scripture.
- 2. (R) Exodus 22: 2
- 3. REAL LIFE EXAMPLES:
  - a. Police Officers - - State Police Officers that pull their weapons in self-defense with criminals attempting to take their lives or an innocent victims' life; that's one critical way these civil servants – Protect & Serve
  - b. Home invasions ~ protecting your family

6<sup>th</sup> commandment ~ DOES NOT prohibit killing when it's a...

B. "JUST WAR" painful reality

- 1. Bible is filled with examples of the 'Ark of the Covenant' leading out the nation of Israel into battle to fight against the enemies of God's people.
- 2. Ecclesiastes 3: 8 says, "...there is a time for war & a time for peace."
- 3. Every national leader should do his or her best to be a peace-maker; the Adolph Hitler's + Saddam Hussein + Osama bin Laden's will be held accountable for being warmongers & shedding innocent blood.
- 4. Sad reality war is a last resolve ~ when a nation is defending itself against violent aggression, protecting weaker nations; war is the lesser of two evils.
- 5. When a soldier kills in battle = it's NOT murder according to scripture!

C. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT controversial issue

- 1. God actually instituted capital punishment in the O.T.
- 2. (R) Genesis 9: 5 – 6
  - a. God's Word says the primary reason for capital punishment is to underscore the value of the victim's life.
  - b. Remember, all of us are made in the 'image of God!'

III. 6<sup>th</sup> commandment ~ PROHIBITS killing when it involves...

A. Taking an innocent life.

- 1. Murder is defined as a premeditated act intended to take someone's' life.

2. Examples of taking innocent life in our culture include:
  - a. Negligent homicide ~ unintentional-accidental deaths
    - i. (R) Exodus 21: 28
    - ii. Accident's are tragic & unavoidable
  - b. Suicide ~ it's the murder of one's self (harsh reality)
    - i. (R) I Corinthians 6: 19 – 20
    - ii. It's a principle of Scripture that our bodies are just on loan from God. Since our bodies belong to God; we have no right to terminate the lease prematurely.
    - iii. I do not agree with the Catholic doctrine that all persons who commit suicide will go straight to Hell. Bible doesn't say that!

BUT I wholeheartedly agree that its God's decision when our time is up; He will take us home to be with Him in Heaven!
  - c. Abortion ~ sanctity of human life is at stake
    - i. The human embryo is at very least a human being in the making.
    - ii. (R) Exodus 21: 22 – 24 life for a life
    - iii. This is not a political issue - - it is a Human Rights Issue; we have to protect those who can not protect themselves!
    - iv. 2,976 people died on 9/11. BUT well over 3,000 babies have died every single day for last (37 yrs) including today.
  - d. Euthanasia ~ taking the life of medically impaired

Hippocratic Oath = "To please no one will I prescribe a deadly drug nor give advice which may cause death nor will I give a woman the means to procure an abortion."

Doctors are no longer obligated to take this oath. According to the Journal of Medical Association 11% of physicians would now be WILLING to HASTEN a patient's death by prescribed medicine.

Much greater concerns TODAY than the Health Care legislation bill:

B. INSERT Dr. Leo Alexander

According to Jesus ~ Murder is more than an act of the flesh; it's an attitude of the heart.

#### IV. 6<sup>th</sup> commandment ~ what it means to us TODAY

A. (R) Matthew 5: 21 - 22 or p. 736 in pew Bible

1. The Pharisees had reduced the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment = "You must not murder," down to its most elementary form, to refer only to the specific act of killing.
2. Jesus explained the REALITY of the Commandment = it's divine intent:
  - a. Is that all murder is? Asked Jesus. Is it nothing but killing?

- b. Suppose a man wants to kill his enemy but is stopped by some unexpected circumstance. Is he innocent just b/c he didn't get a chance to follow thru on his desire?
  - c. Suppose he is too cowardly to kill, but would like to do it.
  - d. Or suppose he is just afraid of getting caught.
  - e. What if he only hates his enemy?
  - f. Or insults him? Is he still innocent of breaking this 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment?
3. Jesus says = NO, that person is guilty!
- a. In a human court the only acts that can be judged & punished are external acts, b/c human beings can look only on outward things.
  - b. The court systems cannot SEE the heart.
  - c. In God's - divine courtroom "...anyone who is angry with someone... is subject to judgment.
  - d. Don't neglect that God can SEE our hearts = He knows our intent.
- (R) Matthew 5: 22
- B. Angry outbursts=Destructive comments are a big deal w/God:
- Jesus says, "...calling someone an idiot...cursing @ someone will literally put you in danger of the fires of hell."
    - Calling someone an 'idiot' represents a destructive attack upon an individual's character & identity.
    - Bible teaches in Genesis 1: 26; "Then God said, let us make human beings in our image to be like us."
      - Attacking another person literally means to attack God's beloved-state of the art creation.
      - King Solomon described the power of words in Proverbs 18: 21, "Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit – you choose." MSG
  - Moodiness / bad tempers / & irritability are w/out defense = serious business!
    - a. Anger makes us vulnerable to the enemy's attacks!
    - b. INSERT Mickey Mantel & Billy Martin
    - c. The longer we postpone mending a quarrel, the less likely we are to mend it.

My NEXT STEP today is...

"To allow God to release me from any anger or bitterness I feel towards anyone."

Ask God for help: Come to the altar & pray & ask God to intervene.