

THE GIFT OF LIFE

Blueprint – Part 6

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“You shall not murder.”

Exodus 20:13 (NIV)

I. Two Hebrew Words

1. harag – used for killing (e.g., war)
2. ratsah – unlawful/unauthorized taking of human life

II. Three Reasons We are Commanded Not to Murder

1. All humans bear God’s image.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

2. Human life is a gift from God.

Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

3. We are accountable to God for the lives of fellow humans.

Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.”

Genesis 4:9-10 (NIV)

III. The Way of Jesus

1. Anger is equated with murder.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV)

2. Reconciliation is the heart of the matter.

“...First go and be reconciled to them...”

Matthew 5:24b (NIV)

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary...”

Matthew 5:25a (NIV)

3. The matter is the heart.

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person...”

Matthew 15:19-20a (NIV)

“To serve our brother, to please him, to allow him his due and to let him live, is the way of self-denial, the way of the cross. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. That is the love of the Crucified.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

The Lord is a God who avenges.

O God who avenges, shine forth.

Rise up, Judge of the earth;

pay back to the proud what they deserve.

How long, Lord, will the wicked,

how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the Lord has become my fortress,

and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.

He will repay them for their sins

and destroy them for their wickedness;

the Lord our God will destroy them.

Psalms 94:1-3; 124:1-3 (NIV)