

The Sixth Commandment

Duties Toward Others · The Ten Commandments

The sixth commandment protects human life, created in God's image. The Hebrew word specifically denotes unlawful killing—murder—rather than all taking of life. This prohibition encompasses not only the act of murder but its roots: hatred, anger, and contempt. Jesus taught that calling a brother 'fool' violates this commandment's spirit. Positively, the commandment requires preserving and protecting life, including our own bodies and the lives of others.

Key Verses

Exodus 20:13

Thou shalt not kill.

Matthew 5:21-22

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.

Genesis 9:6

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

1 John 3:15

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.