

You shall not murder

Exodus 20:13

2 January 2010

I. Definition: unwarranted taking of human life

- A. Not all killing
- B. Not warfare
- C. Not self-defense (Exodus 22:2)

II. Cities of Refuge

- A. Kinsman avengers
- B. Cities of refuge (Numbers 35:9-34; Joshua 20:1-9)
 - i. cities were founded or designated throughout the land
 - ii. if you murdered someone you had a place to flee the avenger (Numbers 35:12)
 - iii. trial by the "congregation" of the city (see also Deuteronomy 17:6)
 - iv. intentional murder must be punished with death
 - v. if unintentional, the manslayer can continue to live there "until the death of the high priest" (35:25)
- C. Vengeance is mandatory (Number 35:33)

III. Reason: man is made in the image of God

- A. Mankind is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)
- B. Mankind is God's child (Genesis 5:3)
- C. Blood is required for human blood (Genesis 9:1, 5-6)

IV. Act and Thought

- A. The *event* of a human-caused death is an offense to God and "pollutes the land"
- B. Jesus: the thought counts too! (Matthew 5:21-22)

V. Cain: malice, murder, curse, mercy, city

- A. A broken relationship with God → malice toward brother (Genesis 4:4-7; James 1:14-15)
- B. The land itself revolts against a murderer
- C. God shows mercy to a murderer
- D. The city of Cain and the mercy of God

VI. The city of refuge

- A. The Lord is our city of refuge (too many Psalms to list)
- B. Blood demands atonement
- C. The Lord Jesus Christ is our high priest (Hebrews 9:11-13)