LIVE AND LET LIVE

 **DATE: 3/4/2018 am**

**TEXT: Exodus 20:13**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing to study the 10 Commandments

A Perfect Ten for a Perfect Life

We now come to the 6th Commandment

Perhaps none of the 10 Commandments have been more Misunderstood, Misinterpreted, and Misapplied than the 6th Commandment

A good example would be the billboards put up by PETA

(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)

They show a Moses-like figure with his arms outstretched, and the words – *“I said, Thou shalt not kill. Go vegetarian”*

I don’t think God gave the 6th Commandment to encourage a vegetarian diet

Nor was the 6th Commandment given to condemn the Killing of Animals

It was given for both the Promotion and Protection of Human Life

You could say that God says in the 6th Commandment …

**“Live and Let Live”**

Live and Let Live is the heart and soul of the 6th Commandment

It is this Commandment that places a Premium on Human Life

It underscores the Value of the Life that is enjoyed by each person, and seeks the protection of that gift

As we continue looking at the 10 Commandments,

Let’s look at the 6th Commandment and learn from it the lessons that God has for us

Let’s think on this thought – **“Live and Let Live”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see that the 6th Commandment *Defends* …

**I. THE “SANCTITY” OF LIFE**

In case you’re wondering, the word **Sanctity** means *sacred (worthy) and needs to be respected, protected*

Life is Sacred and Worthy of Protection

No one has the right to take the Life of another person

It’s the Commandment that Defends Human Life –

***“Thou shalt not kill”***

These words are the Law of God for the Protection and Defense of the Life we have been given

As I said earlier, this Commandment has often been Misunderstood and Misinterpreted

So what does God mean when He says - ***“Thou shalt not kill”?***

First, let me say that God is describing …

**A. An ‘Act of the Hand’**

**1.** We need to understand what God means when He uses the word ***“kill”***

The Hebrew word used here means *Murder*

Murder is *the intentional taking of another person’s life*

The word comes from a root that means *to dash to pieces*

It describes someone’s life being Willfully and Wrongfully taken by the hand of another

It is what we would call Murder in the first degree or homicide

**2.** This is important to understand because there is a difference between Killing and Murder

It’s possible to Kill and not Murder

In the Bible, you find that Not all Killing is Murder

All Murder is Killing, but not all Killing is Murder

For Example - in **Numbers 35** we read about the *Cities of Refuge*

These were 10 cities that provided a haven for safety for someone who accidentally killed someone and needed protection from the revenge of a relative

In **Numbers 35:11** we read - ***“Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares”***

The word ***“unawares”*** speaks of someone who killed another by mistake or inadvertently

The killing occurred by accident

It was not on purpose, not intentional

Such killing would not be classified as Murder

Today we call it *Manslaughter*

**3.** Capital Punishment would not be classified as Murder

Yes, it involves killing, but it is not killing that is identified as Murder

Shortly after history’s first Murder, God established the principle that the consequence for someone …

… intentionally taking the life of another was the forfeiture of their life

We read in **Genesis 9:6** - ***“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man”***

We also read in **Leviticus 24:17 - *“And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death”***

**4.** Neither would War be classified as Murder

As we study the Bible, we find God commanding His people to use force and engage in war to carry out purposes that are Just, Moral and Defensive

When God says - ***“Thou shalt not kill”***

He is talking about the Intentional taking of a life of a human being by the hand of another

God is saying - ***“Thou shalt not murder”***

Now, I know what many of you are thinking …

*“What has this to do with me, I don’t plan on murdering anyone”*

However, it’s possible that we are still guilty

As we study our Bible we find that Murder is not only an **Act of the Hand,**

But it is also described as …

**B. An ‘Attitude of the Heart’**

God not only establish the 6th Commandment,

But Jesus also expanded on it

We read in **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: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire”***

Jesus took the 6th Commandment and expanded it to include being filled with hate and anger toward someone else

The word ***“angry”*** that He used speaks of *being wroth, filled with rage*

Because that’s where it all begins / In the Heart

**Ephesians 4:26 – *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:”***

Murder begins in the Heart

Jesus was talking about rage, the kind of anger that results not only in Murder, but also in the Murder of Friendships, Relationships, Reputations, and our own Happiness

We may not be guilty of actually committing Murder,

But Jesus tells us that if we are angry with someone without a cause, we face judgment just the same as if we committed Murder

Whether it’s an **Act of the Hand** or an **Attitude of the Heart,**

God’s command is ***- “Thou shalt not kill”***

The 6th Commandment *Defends* … **THE “SANCTITY OF LIFE”**

Next we see that the 6th Commandment *Declares* …

**II. THE “SOURCE” OF LIFE**

Where does this Law of Life originate?

Obviously … it comes from God

God is the Source of all Life

This Commandment is not only about *The Defense* of Life,

But it also draws our attention to *The Defender* of Life as well

We therefore need to understand that …

**A. Our ‘Existence is Dependent on’ God**

It is God alone who brought Life into Existence

And Who now Perpetuates Life

The Bible teaches us that it was God who gave man Life

We read in **Genesis 2:7 - *“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”***

Life did not originate from some primordial soup or Big Bang

God Formed man and gave him Life

The Bible says in **Genesis 1:27 - *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them”***

God continues to form men (today) in the womb

**Psalm 139:13-16 …**

It’s God Who provides the spark of Life

And now our existence is dependent upon Him

Man owes his very existence to God

Not only do …

**We see that Our ‘Existence is Dependent upon’ God**

But also that …

**B. Our ‘End is Determined by’ God**

At the very heart of the 6th Commandment is the truth that God and God alone is responsible for the Conception and the Expiration of Life

In **Job 14:5** we are told that our days are determined by God -

***“Seeing his (man’s) days are determined, (and) the number of his months are with Thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;”***

**Hebrews 9:27 *– “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”***

It is God who gives Life and He is the only one who says when a Life should end

Not you, Not I, no one has the right to end a Life

**Quote:** G. Campbell Morgan said in his book on the Ten Commandments, *“…and to terminate a single Human life is to set up man as superior to that of God.” I doubt that a murder ever thought about it, but when they choose to take a life they are taking upon themselves a role that is reserved only for God. Only God has the right to end life”*

It’s this truth that causes me to have problems with such forms of killing known as Euthanasia and Abortion

We may called it Mercy-killing, nevertheless,

No individual or doctor can determine when a person should die

The same is true in Abortion

It may be the law of the land, but that does not make it right in the eyes of God

Only God has the right to determine who should live or die

That is not a human privilege or responsibility

Whether it is a sin-hardened criminal or a doctor, no one has the right to terminate life

To do so is to assume upon ourselves a role that belongs to God (as well as commit Murder)

You could read the 6th Commandment to say –

***“Thou shalt not kill. You do not have the right to determine when life should end”***

**THE “SANCTITY” OF LIFE**

**THE “SOURCE” OF LIFE**

Then, lastly we see that the 6th Commandment *Displays* …

**III. THE “SIGNIFICANCE” OF LIFE**

We have seen that God places a Great Worth on Human Life

God making a Law and Commandment for the Protection of Life indicates that God Places a great Premium and Value upon it

Therefore, so should Believers

This Significance is first seen in …

**A. The ‘Physical’ Significance of Life**

Of all the Commandments that address our relationship with one another,

There is seriousness about violating the 6th Commandment unlike any other

For example … If a person steals from someone, they can make restitution and restoration

However, when someone takes the life of someone else

It is irreversible / it is impossible to give that life back

Death is final

God’s Command underscores **the ‘Physical’ Significance of life**

Because we are given only one life, God jealously guards that life with His Laws

Furthermore, there is also …

**B. The ‘Spiritual’ Significance of Life**

I think we forget to keep in mind the spiritual side of Life

Just as God is Triune (3 in 1) / So is man

**I Thessalonians 5:23 – *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”***

Man is like God in that he is spirit (or has a spirit)

The life we have is a gift from God and endowed with a divine purpose

That purpose begins with our coming to Christ, accepting Him as Saviour and making Him Lord of our life

Once you know Christ as Saviour, then you can discover and fulfill God’s great purpose for your life

The life that each one of us has been given is a gift from God in which we are given the opportunity to establish a relationship with God

This is the first and foremost reason God has placed such value on our life

It is one of the reasons, He by His Laws, protect Life

He wants us to know Him

He wants to have a relationship with us in this life in order to be prepared for the life to come

Understand that when God said, ***“Thou shalt not kill,”***

He wanted more than to keep you alive

He wants you to live!

The great question is, ARE YOU REALLY LIVING?

**John 10:10 b** – ***“… I am come that they (we) might have life, and that they (we) might have it more abundantly”***

**CONCLUSION**

Life is fragile; we need to treat it with care

Life is not ours to determine what we are going to do with it

Life is a Gift from God, we need to treat it with dignity

But Life is not really Life until it is Born Again

**John 3:36 *– “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”***

**John 5:24 –** ***“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

**THE “SANCTITY” OF LIFE**

**THE “SOURCE” OF LIFE**

**THE “SIGNIFICANCE” OF LIFE**