

# Thou Shalt Not Kill

**Exo\_20:13** Thou shalt not kill. **Deu\_5:17**

## **Mat\_5:21-24**

(21) *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:*

(22) *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.*

(23) *Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;*

(24) *Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.*

**Rom\_13:9** *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

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## **Mat\_5:21-24**

(21) *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill **G5407**; and whosoever shall kill **G5407** shall be in danger of the judgment:*

(22) *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.*

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**G5407** φονεύω phoneuō

### **Thayer Definition:**

- 1) to kill, slay, murder
- 2) to commit murder

Jesus framed the Old Testament command in terms of personal, one on one relationships.

In anger, the life taking of the one with which we are angry.

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**Exo 20:13** Thou shalt not kill **H7523**. **Deu 5:17**

**H7523** רצח rātsach

### **BDB Definition:**

- 1) to murder, slay, kill
  - 1a) (Qal) to murder, slay
    - 1a1) premeditated
    - 1a2) accidental

All of the Ten Commandments are directed at individuals and their personal actions and relationships; not the nation as an entity.

The commandments all deal with how individual Israelites were to relate to God or to a fellow Israelite.

Not how they dealt with others when acting as a nation under authority of Israel's God appointed leadership.

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## **Rom 13:9**

*For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, **Thou shalt not kill**<sup>G5407</sup>, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

Paul characterized the commands in the same way when addressing the newly created 'Church' – one individual relating to other individuals.

**G5407** φονεύω phoneuō

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- 1) to kill, slay, murder
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**Exo 20:13** *Thou shalt not kill* **H7523**. **Deu 5:17**

**28 Translations**

**Exodus 20:13**

(ABP+) You shall not murder.<sup>G5407</sup>  
(AMP) You shall not commit murder.  
(ASV) Thou shalt not kill.  
(BBE) Do not put anyone to death without cause.  
(Bishops) Thou shalt not kyll.  
(Brenton) Thou shalt not commit kill.  
(CEV) Do not murder.  
(Darby) Thou shalt not kill.  
(DRB) Thou shalt not kill.  
(ERV) "You must not murder anyone.  
(ESV) "You shall not murder.  
(Geneva) Thou shalt not kill.  
(GNB) "Do not commit murder.

**Deuteronomy 5:17**

(ABP+) You shall not murder.<sup>G5407</sup>  
(AMP) You shall not murder.  
(ASV) Thou shalt not kill.  
(BBE) Do not put anyone to death without cause.  
(Bishops) Thou shalt not slay.  
(Brenton) Thou shalt not commit murder.  
(CEV) Do not murder.  
(Darby) Thou shalt not kill.  
(DRB) Thou shalt not kill.  
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(Geneva) Thou shalt not kill.  
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**Thou shalt not kill.**

(murder)

Murder is universally considered the worst of all crimes

At the same time it is the sin most universally practiced.

Most practiced because Christ would even not let us get away with restricting the law to those who in anger would vengefully take the life of a brother.

Even holding onto anger against a brother violates the sixth commandment.

Jesus said,

*"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, '... whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment" (Matt. 5:21-22).*

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**Exo 20:13** *Thou shalt not kill* **H7523**. **Deu 5:17**

**28 Translations**

**Exodus 20:13**

(GW) "Never murder.  
(ISV) "You are not to murder.  
(JPS) Thou shalt not murder.  
(KJV) Thou shalt not kill.  
(LITV) You shall not murder.  
(MKJV) You shall not kill.  
(NASB+) "You shall not murder<sup>H7523</sup>.  
(NirV) "Do not commit murder.  
(NIV) "You shall not murder.  
(NKJV) "You shall not murder.  
(NLT) "You must not murder.  
(RV) Thou shalt do no murder.  
(TNIV) "You shall not murder.  
(Webster) Thou shalt not kill.  
(YLT) `Thou dost not murder.

**Deuteronomy 5:17**

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**FORMS OF KILLING**

Before we take the position that 'All killing is wrong (if not sinful)', we need to consider 'killing' in all its forms and determine God's position regarding each, based on correctly considering His actions and the commands in His Word.

If we have not undertaken to understand God's position, the best we can offer is a personal opinion which, in the end, means nothing if it is not in full agreement with God's position.

We may not like what we find, but we are not free to ignore God's position or to overrule it, replacing it with something more to our liking...

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## But, that was then, This is now...

Many object that the Old Testament Law no longer applies; that we are now under a new covenant. A common argument, but wrong.

Jesus did not abolish the Law – He did away with its power to condemn us if we accept Him.

*(17) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. (18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. (19) Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **Mat 5:17-19** KJV*

*(13) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: **Gal 3:13** KJV*

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## God has not changed

What pleased God then and the things He required of His people in order to please Him are the same then and now.

The things which displeased Him then, displease Him now.

He laid down certain things within the Law He gave to Moses that were worthy of the death penalty.

Just because our sophisticated, politically correct society ignores many of them, does not change them from being evil in God's eyes into something He winks at.

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## Mosaic code prescribes the death penalty for 18 crimes:

1. **Murder** - *Exo 21:12-14, 20; 22:2-3; Lev 20:2; 24:17, 21; Num 35:11-21, 30; Deu 19:11-13*
2. **Accidentally causing the death of a pregnant woman or her baby (?)** if injured in the course of a fight - *Exo 21:22-25*
3. **Killing of a person by a dangerous animal that had killed before, yet was not kept caged** (both the animal and the owner to be killed) - *Exo 21:28-30*
4. **Kidnapping** - *Exo 21:16; Deu 24:7*
5. **Rape of a married woman** (but not rape of a virgin) - *Deu 22:25-29*
6. **Fornication** - *Lev 21:9; Deu 22:13-21; exception, Lev 19:20-22*
7. **Adultery** - *Lev 20:10; Num 5:12-30; Deu 22:22-24*
8. **Incest** - *Lev 20:11-12, 14*
9. **Homosexuality** - *Lev 20:13*
10. **Sexual intercourse with an animal** - *Exo 22:19; Lev 20:15-16*
11. **Striking a parent** – *Exo 21:15*

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## Mosaic code prescribes the death penalty for 18 crimes:

12. **Cursing a parent** - *Exo 21:17; Lev 20:9*
13. **Rebelling against parents** - *Deu 21:18-21*
14. **Sorcery, Witchcraft** - *Exo 22:18; Lev 20:27*
15. **Cursing God** - *Lev 24:10-16*
16. **Attempting to lead people to worship other gods** - *Deu 13:1-16; 18:20; cf. Exo 22:20*
17. **Avenging a death despite acquittal by the law** - *Deu 17:12*
18. **Intentionally testifying falsely against someone in jeopardy of the death penalty** - *Deu 19:16-19.*

[Dave Llewellyn, "Restoring the Death Penalty: Proceed with Caution," Christianity Today, 23 May 1975, 11]

Scripture is full of actions for which a nation or society could and should take a life.

The issue is not the taking of a life but the circumstance under which a life could be taken.

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## If all Killing is wrong, I need to consider what to do with:

- **MURDER**
- **SPIRITUAL MURDER**
  - ❖ Not sharing the gospel
- **SELF-DEFENSE**
- **VIOLENCE**
- **NEGLECT**
- **ANGER**
- **RACISM**
- **CORPORATE ACTIONS**
- **DISCRIMINATION**
- **ABORTION AND INFANTICIDE**
  - ❖ Right to Choose.
  - ❖ Economic and Social Well-being.
  - ❖ Mental Health of the Mother.
  - ❖ Health, Well Being of the Child
  - ❖ Life of the Mother.
  - ❖ Unwanted Children.
  - ❖ Rape, Incest.
  - ❖ Handicap, Deformity
- **SUICIDE**
  - ❖ Intentional
  - ❖ Self-Sacrifice – Giving my life for another
  - ❖ Refusing Medical Care.
  - ❖ Spiritual = Rejecting the gospel
- **SUBMISSIVE NONRESISTANCE**
- **SELF DEFENSE**
- **EUTHANASIA**
  - ❖ Active - Assisted Suicide/End of Life
  - ❖ Passive – Withholding care/sustenance
- **WAR**
- **CRIME - PUNISHMENT**
  - ❖ Death Penalty for Premeditated Homicide.
  - ❖ Death Penalty for War Crimes.
  - ❖ Death Penalty for Genocide.
- **NEGLIGENCE / ACCIDENTAL DEATH**
- **ANIMAL RIGHTS**
- **ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION**

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## Decision Time

God determines 'right' and 'wrong', we adjust our actions to His.

Reviewing God's Word there is no way an honest person can conclude that:

- 1] All killing is wrong – or that –
- 2] Indiscriminate killing is right or proper

There is a difference between personal, individual actions and the actions of a nation or society as a whole.

The 'rules' that apply to an individual may or may not apply to a nation, and vice-versa...

**DO NOT USE GOD'S WORD AS AN EXCUSE NOT TO ACT.  
USE IT AS YOUR REASON FOR ACTING RIGHTLY.**

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