

The Sixth Commandment ADo not Kill@

References:

1. H.H. Pope Shenouda III: Contemplations on the Ten Commandments, Vol 3

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General: Understand the full scope of this commandment.

Specific:

1. The importance of this commandment.
2. Usually unnoticed ways of disobeying this commandment.
3. Killing the spirit.

Instructions:

1. Church occasion
2. .
3. .

Bible Verse:

Alf ye love me, keep my commandments.@
(John 14:15)

Lesson:

AThou Shall Not Kill@

(Exodus 20:13)

Introduction:

We might look at this commandment and say we don=t kill anyone it is not intended for people like us, it is intended for criminals. But when we look deeply at this commandment we will learn that there are forms of killing which are more dangerous than the physical killing. Killing can be defined as either physical, psychological or emotional damage which leads to the physical death or psychological destruction of that person. The word killing is not restricted to the killing of others but it is also applied on our selves as our souls belong to God.

Why is killing a crime?

- \$ **God is the giver of life**, and He is the only one who can take it back. It is owned by Christ, for when He redeemed our lives by His own Blood, He bought man's life which then became His. Unlike other sins, killing irreversibly affects a person's life which is not his own. It is God's. The first crime done in the history of the human race was murder (Cain and Abel,) and God said that the blood of your brother was crying to me. Killing is the crime that haunts the one who commits it forever, Pilate took some water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying **A** I am not responsible for the death of this man. Yet the blood of that Man haunted him till the end of his life and forever.
- \$ **One might justify the killing of a person that he was bad.** Then we would say that this killed person was deprived from a time to repent leading him to hell. Besides human beings cannot play God's role for God says: ***Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*** says the Lord (Romans 12:19). And the guilt is even greater if the killed person is a good person, since it is a greater loss to society.
- \$ **God avenges all blood shed:** ***A**Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.* (Romans 12:19), even by good people as David (1 Chronicles 22:8). David was not pardoned by God for the murder he had committed but God punished him by forbidding from him because his hands had previously been smeared with blood. God said to David ***A**You have shed much blood and have made great wars; and so, you shall not build a house for My Name because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.* (1 Chronicles 22:8).

Types of Killing:

1. Suicide:

The Commandment means not to kill oneself or others by deed, intention, senses or words, either physical or physiological. Suicide is the same as any other murder and man does not own his life nor does he have the liberty to do anything he likes with it. That is why the church does not conduct a funerary mass for an individual who commits suicide. In addition to the crime of committing suicide, we also have other crimes such as losing hope and getting filled with despair as did Judas. Hope is one of the three major virtues mentioned by Paul in ***A** And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love* (1 Corinthians 13:13).

However there are indirect forms of suicide e.g. ruining our own bodies through bad customs such as smoking, alcohol, drugs, over eating. Also adultery is a sin that damages the body and physical indulgence and might causes many serious diseases.

2. Killing others:

God prohibited killing individuals and therefore would condemn wars that aim at massive killing.

Sterilization practised against certain ethnic groups (slaves and aboriginals) is a form of killing.

Intentional abortion is a premeditated murder against an unborn infant with a soul created by God.

Thinking of killing, or urging others to do it, is a form of killing by intention punishable by God.

Hatred is a similar kind of killing *Whoever hateth his brother is a murderer* (I John 3:15).

Character defamation, slander, ill-treatment, frustration and discouragement are all moral killing.

Aggression and physical fight is nothing but partial killing that may lead to bodily or physical loss.

War and Killing:

We can ask ourselves: does war come under the Sixth commandment which forbids killing? God allows man to defend himself, and if war is merely for self defence, or to protect the whole community, God agrees to it as a protection for the individual in society. **God condemns war when it aims at aggression and injustice.** The use of destructive weapons is against the Sixth Commandment. It is a shame that man uses his talents, knowledge, brain and intelligence for the destruction, killing and hurt of his fellow man, whereas if those millions were spent on wars otherwise spent for the welfare of humanity.

When there was any violation of the first seven Commandments, execution of that person that disobeyed God was required according to the Divine law God gave to Moses: *And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death. And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.* (Exod 21:15-16) *And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death. And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death* (Lev 24:16-17)

Indirect Killing:

1. Destroying a person emotionally: Do you think that killing is just when you stab someone with a knife, or shooting someone? No, For mere deadly words, or destructive behaviour that is full of contempt and despise, or an action teeming with insult and humiliation, may make someone very emotionally disturbed. And on the long run this person would be emotionally killed. Each one of us can look deeply into himself and see how many people we might have indirectly killed by spreading a bad gossip about him, teasing, humiliating, or mocking???? *The Bible says :@Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait@ Jer 9:8*

2. Killing Hired Hands: Which means exploiting and giving workers very little wages. Such an individual kills the persons he hires because he knows that the wages he pays them are not

sufficient for them and he himself cares nothing and has no mercy for them. The Bible says **Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.** James 5:4

3. **Refrain from Giving help:** If there is someone in danger and we stand seeing that without giving help this is a form of killing. The Bible says: **Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.** @ Prov 21:13 Therefore, to refrain from giving charity to those in bad need is a clear violation of the sixth commandment. An example of this is the rich man who had no mercy on the Lazarus. The same applies to the priest and the Levite mentioned in the parable of the good Samaritan. As our Lord Jesus Christ mentioned **Al desire mercy and not sacrifice** @ (Matthew 9:13)

Killing of the Spirit:

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. @ Matt 10:28 As the Lord says we should fear those who kill the spirit. The word killing the spirit means corrupting the spirit and making it a follower of the devil. This can be caused indirectly through:

Religious Inventions and Heresies: as they can cause serious killing of the true Christian believe e.g. (Following some cults)

Negligence in brining up children: a vicious husband or vicious wife can=t bring up good children as they will teach them bad behaviour. Parents are responsible for the spiritual lives of their children before God by giving them a good christian example and making them close to the church in terms of attending the liturgy, Sunday school fasting.....etc.

The Stumbling Block: Those who cause others to lose their faith in any way by giving a bad example or encouraging someone to do something wrong, or even by spreading scandals and rumours about them. For example a girl who in dressed in an improper way that causes others to stumble, or a corrupt friend who insist on dragging his mates to the same bad way he follows and turns them into sinners. As our Lord Jesus Christ **But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.** @ Matt 18:6

Conclusion:

Have I caused the injury or death of any one, or wished they were dead? Have I done anything to shorten my own life or that of someone else by injuring health, or through evil and intemperate living? Have I given way to anger, or harmed others with words or actions? Have I defamed others who needed help, or failed to stand up for those unjustly treated? Have I been cruel to anyone? Have I mistreated animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily? Have I failed to forgive anyone or harbored evil thoughts against them?

