

June 5, 2022

Count to Ten

Important Info

Study Help

Along the way, you might consider these beneficial additional resources.

The first resource is Jen Wilkin's book "*Ten Words to Live By*." Copies of this book can be purchased before or after Sunday services at Connection Central.

The second resource is a free online commentary that can be found at <https://bit.ly/3slhfjx>



Friendly Reminder

Don't let your familiarity with the Ten Commandments prevent you from thinking deeply about what they mean in the life of the Church, and in your life specifically.

Important Dates

June 1-July 27	Summer Reading Club
June 12	MVP Dinner & Dessert
June 13-17	Kids Virtual VBS
June 20-24	Generate Summer Camp
June 27-July 1	Connect Camp

Additional information for these events and more can be found online at LegacyChurch.org

Scripture Memory *(optional)*

You shall not murder. - Exodus 20:13 (ESV)

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. - Matthew 5:22 (ESV)

Group Discussion / Exodus 20:13 & Matthew 5:21-26

Opening

Have you ever murdered someone? Think it is a trick question? Try looking at the heart behind this commandment with the help of Jesus' teaching and these words from Jen Wilkin "The Ten Words, by their very nature, are not validating statements. They do not boost our confidence that we are doing just fine. But the sixth word, taken by itself, can sometimes be heard that way. It can feel like a reprieve in the middle of a courtroom trial, a moment to draw a breath of relief and say, 'Well, at least I haven't done that.' If asked to point to one of the Ten Commandments we can say with confidence we have never broken, most of us would respond with this one. But I think we would be served to look for help of a better kind from its words."

Bible Study

The Moody Bible Commentary states "*All life belongs to the Lord, since He is the Creator of life, especially human life. Murder is not only an attack on another human being but since every person is made in the image of God it is an attack on God. All life is therefore sacred; that is, it is set apart to and belongs to the Lord and should be devoted to Him. Thus it is His and His alone to give or to take.*" Do you agree or disagree with this complexity of murder? How does our culture differ from the biblical understanding of who and when a life should be taken (Consider forms of entertainment such as movies, music, video games, as well as the casual language of hatred among coworkers, family members, and social media as you consider the answer to this question.)? How does the spirit of the law (as compared to the letter of the law) fit within the definition of attacking God through murder and wrongful anger towards another human being? Why must we consider God, especially as Christians, when we begin to talk about murder and anger?

Again, in Wilken's *Ten Words to Live By*, she states "*Jesus does not overturn the command not to murder. Rather, he challenges our affection for bare-minimum compliance. A bare-minimum approach to "You shall not murder" means I believe that as long as I don't commit the physical act of murder, I have fulfilled the law. But Jesus teaches the better way. He urges his hearers to look beyond the letter of the law to the spirit of the law. He takes great care to help his hearers identify the inward sin that accounts for why murder happens in the first place. And by pointing to anger as its origin, he allows no room for any of us to breeze past the sixth word.*" Why is it important to see that Jesus' teaching on the application of the sixth commandment is "the better way?" Do you struggle with the idea that anger, hatred, or a haughty attitude towards someone, is the spiritual equivalent of murder? Why or why not?

Peter J. Leithart states "*Addressing the Sixth Word in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns against hatred, anger, and angry words. As Luther put it, the Sixth Word requires a pure heart as well as pure hands, since we can kill with any part of our bodies. Anger can dominate one's life, churning beneath the surface and breaking through at the slightest provocation--a child's embarrassing accident, pressure at work, a traffic jam. You say you're ambitious, but what looks like ambition is envy, a desire to take down the competition. Deep down, you're a murderer. You say you're plain-speaking, but in reality you've turned your tongue into a sword that kills with insults, curses, and frothy outrage. You say you're a leader, but in fact your simmering anger intimidates everyone around you. Anger curves inward into self-hatred, cleverly disguising itself as humility.*" When was the last time you sought to address your anger or malice in the words you speak, the way you behave, or in the way that you interact with others? Does Leithart's explanation of the sixth commandment convict you? Why or why not? As a result of Pastor Brandon's sermon, where do you see yourself needing to grow or repent? Or maybe, what did you learn about the sixth commandment and our obligation to obedience through his sermon?

Closing

This week, take an inventory of your life. Where do you see unrighteous anger in your life? Is there a family member, a coworker, a fellow driver on the road that you harbor murderous anger towards? What must you do to rid yourself of this anger? Who will you confess to, in addition to God? How can your Life Group help you in this area? Consider spending 15 minutes on your own in prayer repenting of your anger.