

# "The Sixth Commandment"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 3, 2022.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Sixth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

## **Grace and expectations**

*Exodus 20:2*—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

*Exodus 20:13*—"You shall not murder."

## **Murder instead of kill**

Although two respected translations of the Bible (King James version and Revised Standard version) quote the sixth commandment as "you shall not kill," many other respected translations have the better translation of "you shall not murder." Following are just a few translations that quote "murder."

- New King James
- New American Standard
- Moffatt
- New International
- Holy Scriptures (According to the Masoretic Text)

## **Eight sections of scripture**

In the Bible study presentation, I organized my material into eight concepts. In this article, I will refer to those eight different sections of scripture.

## **Capital punishment**

*Genesis 9:5-6*—“Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man’s brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.”

### **Intentional and unintentional**

*Exodus 21:12-14*—“He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee. But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.”

### **Cities of refuge**

Instead of quoting from all the verses in Numbers 35:6-30, I will only pick out a few.

- *Numbers 35:6*—Appoint six cities of refuge to where a manslayer could flee.
- *Numbers 35:11-12*—A manslayer who killed a person accidentally could flee to a city of refuge—until he stood before the congregation in judgment.
- *Numbers 35:16-18*—These verses mentioned that a person who committed murder with an iron weapon, a stone or a wooden weapon was to be put to death.
- *Numbers 35:20-21*—These verses mentioned various ways how a person could murder someone—pushing out of hatred, lying in wait, hurling something at a person and striking with a hand.
- *Numbers 35:22-23*—These verses mentioned various ways an accident could occur—pushing without enmity, throwing anything without lying in wait and throwing a stone without seeing the person.
- *Numbers 35:26-28*—If the person left a city of refuge, he was susceptible to being killed.
- *Numbers 35:30*—A murderer was to be put to death by more than one witness.

### **David murdered Uriah**

- *2 Samuel 11:2-4*—David committed adultery.
- *2 Samuel 11:14-17*—To make matters worse, David murdered Uriah (the husband of Bathsheba).

### **Hands full of blood**

In Isaiah 1:11-15, the Lord expressed His disappointment with the people.

Some theologians try to use these scriptures to prove that the Lord was doing away with the seventh-day Sabbath. I reject that conclusion.

I believe that the Lord was showing that all the Commandments were important.

I believe that the Lord was saying that keeping the Fourth Commandment is not pleasing God, when we are not keeping the Sixth Commandment.

- *Isaiah 1:11-12*—The Lord was not impressed with their sacrifices.
- *Isaiah 1:13-14*—The Lord was not impressed with their assemblies.
- *Isaiah 1:15*—The Lord was not impressed with their prayers.

Why?

Notice the last six words in verse 15: "Your hands are full of blood."

### **Dealing with anger**

In Matthew 5:21-22, the Son of God gave valuable instruction about dealing with anger.

- *Matthew 5:21-22*—The Son of God reminded His disciples about the Sixth Commandment and instructed them to deal with anger.
- *Matthew 5:23-24*—The Son of God instructed them to not continue to carry anger toward a brother.
- *Matthew 5:25-26*—The Son of God instructed to wisely deal with an adversary—instead of allowing anger to make things worse.

### **Vengeance is God's**

In Romans 12:17-21, the apostle Paul gave valuable instruction about letting vengeance belong to God.

- *Roman 12:17*—Repay no one evil for evil.
- *Romans 12:18*—Do your part to live peaceably with all people.
- *Romans 12:19*—Give place to wrath and let God repay.
- *Romans 12:20*—Be willing to feed your enemy.
- *Romans 12:21*—Overcome evil with good.

### **Love one another**

In 1 John 3:10-18, the apostle Peter gave valuable instruction about the great commandments mentioned in Matthew 22:36-40.

- *1 John 3:10*—The difference between the children of God and the children of the devil is how people reflect righteousness and love.
- *1 John 3:11-12*—Peter reminded the audience about Cain murdering Abel.
- *1 John 3:14*—He who does not love his brother abides in death.
- *1 John 3:15*—Whoever hates his brother is a murderer.
- *1 John 3:16*—We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.
- *1 John 3:17*—We need to serve the needs of people.
- *1 John 3:18*—We should not only love with our words, we should also love with our actions.