

# “Sixth Commandment”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of July 5, 2025.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled “Sixth Commandment.”

I decided to cover seven sections of Scripture in the presentation—knowing that the comments would be fast and knowing that I would not be able to give a thorough explanation of each section of Scripture. But I chose to mention all seven sections of Scripture anyway.

(Even the scriptures that I did not cover thoroughly in the presentation are included in this article.)

## **Foundational scripture**

■ Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-8).

## **Sixth Commandment**

■ Exodus 20:13—“You shall not murder.”

Someone could ask me: “Why do you use the phrase “You shall not murder” when the King James Version uses the phrase ‘You shall not kill’?”

## **Two simple approaches**

Many people recommend that novice Bible students can use two simple approaches in studying the Bible.

- Take a peek at the original language.

According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Hebrew word in Exodus 20:13 for either "kill" or "murder" is *rasah*—identified in *Strong's* as No. 7523. The concordance says: "To murder, kill." The Hebrew word *rasah* can be translated "murder" or "kill."

- Check out a variety of Bible translations.

Here are two major translations that use the phrase "you shall not kill"—King James Version and Revised Standard Version.

Here are seven well-known translations that use the phrase "you shall not murder"—New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, The James Moffatt Translation, New International Version, God's Word Translation, Contemporary English Version, and The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text.

(It is true that God's Word Translation and the Contemporary English Version are noted more for being easier to understand more than being a scholarly compilation of the Scripture. On the other hand, many Bible students value the accuracy of the text found in The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text.)

Now, notice the seven main sections of Scripture that I chose to mention in the Wednesday-night presentation.

### **Capital punishment**

- Genesis 9:5—"From the hand of every man's brother, I will require the life of man."

- Genesis 9:6—"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed."

### **Premeditation verses unintentional**

- Exodus 21:12—He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

- Exodus 21:13—However, if the attacker did not lie in wait (meaning it was not premeditated), then there would be an appointed place to which the attacker could flee.

- Exodus 21:14—If an attacker acts with premeditation against his neighbor, the attacker faces death.

### **Cities of refuge**

- Numbers 35:6—The Levites shall appoint six cities of refuge to which a manslayer could flee.

- Numbers 35:11—You shall appoint cities of refuge to which a manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee.

■ Numbers 35:12—They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment.

■ Numbers 35:16-21—Murderers shall be put to death.

■ Numbers 35:26-27—If a person leaves the city of refuge, he is not protected.

■ Numbers 35:28—A person had to remain in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest—but, after the death of the high priest, the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

### **Hands full of blood**

■ Isaiah 1:11-15—Why was the Lord not happy about their sacrifices, assemblies and prayers?

■ Isaiah 1:15—He said: "Your hands are full of blood."

### **Dealing with anger**

■ Matthew 5:21—The Son of God taught: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'"

■ Matthew 5:22—The Son of God continued: "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

■ Matthew 5:23-24—If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and be reconciled.

■ Matthew 5:25-26—Agree quickly with your adversaries.

### **Vengeance is the Lord's**

■ Romans 12:17—Repay no one evil for evil.

■ Romans 12:18—Where possible, live peacefully with all people.

■ Romans 12:19—Give place to your wrath—because vengeance is the Lord's.

■ Romans 12:20-21—Overcome evil with good.

### **Beware of those seeking to hurt you**

■ 2 Timothy 4:14—Paul wrote: "Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works."

■ 2 Timothy 4:15—Paul wrote: "You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words."

- 2 Timothy 4:16—Paul wrote: “At my first defense, no one stood with me—but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.”
- 2 Timothy 4:17—Paul wrote: “But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.”
- 2 Timothy 4:18—Paul wrote: “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”