

## CCC LET THERE BE LIFE Part 6

### Ten Values That Build Strong Families - Part 6

Exodus 20:13

We're in part 6 in the series I'm calling Ten Values That Build Strong Families, or we could call it the ten principles to building character and Integrity into your life... and what are these Ten Principles I am talking about, we call them the Ten Commandments, not the ten suggestion but the Ten Commandments. Now God gave us these and command us to follow them but He didn't command us to follow them for His benefit, its not for His benefit. He says if you are going to call yourself a Christian and you want the benefits to having me in your life then I command that you follow these because these will take you through the process you need and they will produce in you the purpose I have for you in life. The Commandment were going to

look at today is from Exodus 20:13 it is very simple, just four words: "*You shall not murder.*" I know some of you are saying, we can skip this one, Bill. Because not many of us ion here today have the urge to murder, it doesn't happen very often, well except maybe when you're on the Highway (Pause) and it's my guess is we don't have many professional hit men here in church today, would I be right in saying that... So not a whole lot of you need this message – or maybe we do... Did you know by the time the average American child has hit 6th grade they have already witnessed over 8,000 murders on television. They have watched over 100,000 acts of violence on television. We live in a violent society, every 22 minutes in America somebody is stabbed, shot or beaten or strangled to death. U.S.A has the highest homicide rate in the world. More kids die from violence than they do from illness. When you

look at this verse, "*Thou shalt not murder*" that seems like a very straightforward command but actually it's often misunderstood, it's often misapplied, misappropriated, misinterpreted and so we want to talk about what does this **mean** and what does it **not mean**.

## **I. WHAT DOES THIS COMMAND NOT MEAN?**

### **1. It is not prohibiting killing animals.**

The Bible is very clear about the difference between human life and animal life. In the Bible, many times, God commanded that animals be used for sacrifice. One of the things you need to know is that God never contradicts Himself. He wouldn't say one thing one place and something differently another place. Just a word on studying the Bible... You interpret an unclear passage with a clear one. Many places in Scripture, it's very clear, He says it's OK to kill animals. Genesis 9:3 "*Everything that*

*lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.*" You don't have to be a vegetarian unless you just want to be one. It's not commanded in the Bible to be one. It's OK to eat meat. What does this command not mean, *You shall not murder*.

### **2. It is not prohibiting capital punishment.**

Many times in Scripture God commands capital punishment for certain crimes, He says this is worthy of the death penalty. Lev. 24 "*Anyone who commits murder shall be put to death...the principle is a life for a life.*" That is very clear. God says there are some things, like murder, that demand the death penalty. Why you may ask the death penalty? To maintain order in our society, God has delegated His authority to the government. The Bible says that God has allowed human governments to be set up to maintain law and order and punish wrong doers, including

capital punishment. "The government is there to serve God for your benefit ... or they are suppose to be... they carry out God's revenge by punishing wrongdoers." God says, I've set these governments up, I allow them, there is no perfect government, no one is right in everything they do, but they do keep law and order. God wants justice in this world. But He demands swift justice which our system of appeals has made a mockery of God's demands of swift judgement. When President William McKinley was assassinated his assassin was caught, convicted, and executed 53 days later. Let me ask you a question? Do you think that would happen today? Not a chance. When Theodore Bundy was finally executed after killing all of those women, it was 11 years after the crime. Who paid for all those 11 years? You did, the taxpayers. That's not

justice. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Justice postponed is justice denied."

What does this command not mean, *You shall not murder*.

### **3. It's not prohibiting going to war.**

Eccl. 3:8 "*There is a time for war*". God says there are some things that are worth fighting for. There are some things that are worth dying for. It's right to fight in order to preserve your freedom. It's right to fight in order to defend innocent people. It's right to fight to stop the spread of evil. All that is necessary for evil to triumph... is for good men to sit around and to do nothing.

## **II. HOW THIS COMMAND APPLIES TO THE FAMILY**

So what is God saying? Why is this a value that relates to my family? Because Life is of value.

### **1. God says NO to suicide**

God says Don't do it. But, now suicide is now the number two killer among college students. It is the number three killer among high school students. More kids are killed by suicide than by traffic. God says Don't do it. People say, "It's my life and I have a right to live it and to take it." God says, "No, you don't. I gave you your life and only I have the right to take it away." You don't own your life and you don't own the right to take it. "We are not our own bosses to live and die as we ourselves might choose." Scripture says, you're not your own, you're bought with a price. The Bible says, that even before you were born, God predetermined the exact number of days you were to live. Job 14:5 "*The length of a man's life is decided beforehand – the number of months he will live. You, God, have settled it.*" God says I've decided the number of days you're going to live and I don't want you short-circuiting it. Most us at

different times have felt despair enough to think it "Is life worth living?" If you have considered or are considering suicide, I want to say to you from my heart, **There is hope.** And that you matter so much to God. God made you for a purpose. He cares about you and He can help you out of your despair. So what is God saying, *You shall not murder*, He is saying because Life is of value.

## **2. God says NO to mercy killing**

The technical term is euthanasia. This is causing the death of someone because of deformity, or old age, or an incurable disease. I'm not talking about allowing natural causes and I'm not talking about not artificially supporting life. I'm talking about causing the death of someone either because of inconvenience or because you don't think that there life is worth living any more. God says you do not have a right to do that. Job 12:10, "*It is God who directs*

*the lives of his creatures; every man's life is in his power."*

Only God has a right to determine when I should stop living. He's chosen it for me and He's chosen it for you.

So what is God saying, *You shall not murder*, He is saying because Life is of value.

### **3. God says NO to abortion**

Psalm 139 *"You, God, created every part of me, You put me together in my mother's womb. When my bones were being formed when I was growing there in secret, You knew I was there. You saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me were all recorded in Your book before any of them ever began."* Circle each "I", "me" and "my" in the verse. He's talking about a baby in its mother. He says, You created me, You saw me.... God is saying that's a person inside the mother is not a blob of tissue. He says, I've even planned every day before you were born. Other passages of

Scripture say that God even knows your personality before you are born. God says that is a person in there. From a human viewpoint we may have unplanned pregnancies. But there are no accidental conceptions to God. Maybe we didn't plan it and maybe it even came as a result of some evil, but there are no accidental conceptions. God says, "I planned it. I numbered the days of that child before it was even born. I know what it was like. I put it together with its genetic capabilities." God has a purpose in every one of them even though we don't have a purpose for every one of them.

God says a fetus is not a tissue; it's a life I planned. He says, "All my days were numbered before I was even born." If all our days were numbered before we were even born, abortion is the ultimate short-circuiting of God's will. You know how shocking the facts of abortion are: 26% of

all pregnancies in America now end in abortion, one out of four; 30 million Americans have been killed through abortion, that's more than all of the wars put together.

The good news is, you can repent of this like any other sin and God will forgive you. That's the Good News, yes you may have made a bad choice, but God has promised us to turn it for good, confess it to Him. He is faithful. Did you know that most of the Bible was written by three men who were murderers: Paul, David, Moses -- all took the life of another person? Yet they came to God, humbled themselves and asked Him to forgive them and they were forgiven, and God used them in a great way. That's grace, that's the message of grace. It doesn't matter so much where you've been and what you have done in the past, but the question from God today is: what direction are your feet heading today. Where are you going to stand from now

on... I am so grateful we have a connection to God through Jesus Christ. Because I can stand before you encouraging you this morning even the pitfalls of your past can become fertilizer for your future when you place your hands in the hand of the Prince of Peace, in the Hands of the King of kings and the Lord of lords... Jesus Christ.

See you may not understand this or even feel this right now. But you matter to God and your conception and your birth were not by accident. God planned you. He made you and He planned you. He wants you to know Him and He wants you to know that He loves you. He wants you in His family. When you get in touch with God and You get to know your heavenly Father, life takes on new meaning and new significance.

We've all made mistakes, everyone of us. The Bible says, "*All have sinned.*" That means me, that means you,

**Let us pray!**

everybody. We've all done things we've regretted. The good news is that God can bring good even out of bad, even out of the bad choices, the dumb decisions you've made in your life. God can bring good out of it, if you will allow Him.

God does not cause evil, a lot of it we bring on ourselves, a lot of it other people cause in our lives. But, God does not cause evil but He is the only One who can bring good out of it. If you will give Him the pieces of your life right now today and trust in Him... He will take those pieces and put them together and make something beautiful from them. He will first bring inner peace in your life. Then as you draw closer to Him by being in His word, the Bible and you talk with Him... He will begin bring purpose and meaning into your life and you will become His master piece. Why, because He is a great God. Amen!