

# Answers to Sermon Notes

## The Ten Words: The Sixth Word

Deuteronomy 5:17

7/24/22

1. This morning, we continue our study of the second table of content of the Ten Commandments with the sixth commandment: You shall not **murder**.
  - a. As we do so, let's remember that as the first table governs our relationship to the **God** of **Life**, the second table governs our relationship to the **gift** of **life**.
    - i. This gift we receive both as **individuals** and as a **community**.
    - ii. We have a responsibility to **apply it both** as individuals and as communities.
      - a. This is the **civil** use of the law.
    - iii. This is not simply about **private** morality, it is also about **public** morality.
  - b. Looked at another way, the first table of the law has a unique relationship to the special (**saving**) grace of God that leads to restored relationship with him in **Christ**, the second table of the law has a unique relationship to the **common** grace of God that leads us to the fullest experience of human **flourishing** that can be achieved in this world.
    - i. As our perfect **Father**, God continues to **pour** out his common graces on all. (Mt. 5:48)
    - ii. And use it to **point** to his goodness, glory, and **salvation**.
    - iii. His people, then, have a special **responsibility** not only to live by these, but also to **share** them with all, that all might be **blessed**.
2. These 6 commandments cover our relationship to **human life** under these headings:
  - a. The **Structures** of Human Life. "Honor your father and mother."
  - b. The **Value** of Human Life. "You shall not murder."
  - c. The **Furtherance** of Human Life. "You shall not commit adultery."
  - d. The **Sustaining** of Human Life. "You shall not steal."
  - e. The **Language** of Human Life. "You shall not bear false witness."
  - f. The **Enjoyment** of Human Life. "You shall not covet."
3. While understanding and embracing the **structures** of human life is essential, we will not **advance** far in our contribution to human **flourishing** unless we appreciate the incredible **value** of human life.
4. We want to look at this value in **three senses**.
  - a. Human life has **practical** or **purposeful** value. (Genesis 1:26-28)
    - i. Mankind was created in order to have **dominion** over the earth.
      - a. To take in **hand** what God had made.
      - b. To tend and **develop** it.
      - c. According to their unique **giftedness**. (Cain, Abel, Jabal, Jubal, Tubal-cain)
      - d. **Jesus**, himself, was a **tekton**.
      - e. **Capable** of great accomplishments. (Gen. 11:5-6)
    - ii. This command is known as the **Cultural** Mandate.
      - a. The development and **flourishing** of mankind was the **intention**.
      - b. Man is not the **problem** with the world, he is the **purpose** for the world.
        1. **Anthropic** Principle
        2. We were not intended to be the **guardians** of the garden, but rather the **masters** of the matter.
      - c. While currently stained with sin, human **culture** is a testimony to the **value** of mankind.

- d. In fact, man's **problem**-solving abilities shine as he works against the **curse**.
  - b. Human Life has **experiential** value.
    - i. There is great **satisfaction** in using your gifts for this purpose. (Proverbs 12:11, II Timothy 2:6)
  - c. Human life has **intrinsic** value. (Genesis 1:26-28)
    - i. Human life is inherently valuable because it is **made** in the **image** of God.
      - a. This is a fundamental reality of our **being**, so it belongs to all human beings from **conception** (Psalm 139:13), giving **equal** value to all.
        - 1. Old, young, rich, **poor**, male, female, hipsters, **rednecks**, democrats, republicans, black, white, yellow, red, **brown**, olive, healthy, sick, strong, **weak**, etc.
        - 2. Aside from any value of what you can **do**, your fundamental value rests in what you **are**: you are a human being, made in the **image** of **God**.
      - b. Additionally, his image in us is also manifested in our **sharing** God's communicable **attributes**:
        - 1. Intellectual: **Knowledge**, Wisdom, **Truth**, Reason, Communication, etc.
        - 2. Moral: **Right**, Wrong, **Conscience**, and capable of Love, Mercy, **Honor**, etc.
        - 3. Volitional: **Purpose**, Will, **Power**, etc.
      - c. This was necessary in order for him to be given **dominion**.
    - ii. The **intrinsic** value of human life leads:
      - a. to this **commandment**, and
      - b. to **everything** that falls within it. (Matthew 5:21-22)
    - iii. The intrinsic value of human life leads to three corresponding **human** responsibilities:
      - a. **Reckoning**. (Genesis 9:1-6)
        - 1. A responsibility we perform through **civil government**. (Romans 13:1-4)
          - i. In order to better secure **peace**. (I Timothy 2:1-2)
          - ii. And avoid the escalation of **retribution**. (Genesis 4:24)
          - iii. Not all **killing** is murder.
      - b. **Defense**. (Psalm 82:4)
        - 1. In **policies**, in warnings, or in **actions**. (Exodus 2:16-19, Nehemiah 4:14)
        - 2. But, only commensurate with the **threat**. (Exodus 22:2-3)
      - c. **Rescue**.
        - 1. Bringing **aid** to human beings in need.
        - 2. Even at the risk of our own **lives**. (John 15:13)
        - 3. At the **cost** of our time and **resources**. (Matthew 14:14, Luke 10:29-37)
5. The more that we come to understand the true **value** of human life and human beings, the more we will:
  - a. Embrace the fullness of what it means to be **human ourselves**, and
  - b. Relate to every other human being in ways that **bless** them and please **God**. (HC, Q&A 105-107)