

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A105-107 – Life

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: When there was a greater Christian influence in South Africa prior to 1989, even with its sin of Apartheid 种族隔离, there was a healthy respect for human life. Murders in South Africa averaged about 200. With the advent of a socialist government under Nelson Mandela, things deteriorated 恶化 rapidly. All kinds of law breaking were encouraged, protected, and supported by the government. He spat upon God's law. Now South Africans see human life as cheap with about 25,000 murders per year. It has the 2nd highest per capita murder rate in the world. If ever there were an example of the need to call people back to God's law and have respect for the image of God in man, it is there. And it is clearly taught in the doctrines of the church.

Our headings are: Prohibitions of the Law 6, and Prescriptions of Law 6.

Our goals are: That you will guard your hearts with God's Word and Spirit so that you don't contribute to the unlawful taking of human life, but rather, that you might labor to protect life and honor Christ your Creator.

Prohibitions of Law 6

105 Q. WHAT IS GOD'S WILL FOR US IN THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT?

A. I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor— not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds— and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge. I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

答: 我不可在心思, 言语, 或外表上, 更不可在行为上, 任凭自己亲自或假手于人作出诽谤, 仇恨, 侮辱或杀害我邻舍的事; 反要弃绝一切报仇的心。再者, 我不可伤害自己, 也不可自陷于危险中; 是以, 官吏为求阻止谋杀, 也要佩带刀剑。

106 Q. DOES THIS COMMANDMENT REFER ONLY TO KILLING?

A. By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. In God's sight all such are murder.

答: 不过神禁止杀人时, 也教训我们, 他曾恨那杀人的根源——即嫉妒, 恨恶, 恼怒, 报复的心; 这一切在他的眼中乃是隐秘的杀人罪。

107 Q. IS IT ENOUGH THEN THAT WE DO NOT KILL OUR NEIGHBOR IN ANY SUCH WAY?

A. No. By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly to him, to protect him from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.

1. Murder often starts a long time before there is a dead body. Since murder starts in the heart, God forbids that you have uncontrolled anger, envy or the desire for personal revenge in your hearts. You are not to bear any grudge 恩怨 in your heart. Bitterness and grudges are deadly.

Matthew 5: 21 "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.' 22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...

1John 3:15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Leviticus 19: 17 'You shall **not hate your brother in your heart**. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 'You shall not take vengeance, **nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

不可报复, 也不可向你的族人怀恨, 却要爱你的邻居好像爱自己; 我是耶和華。

Consider the sons of Jacob how their uncontrolled anger caused them to plot a bloody revenge against Shechem for seducing their sister. They killed all the men of the city.

Genesis 34: 7 And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done. 25 Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

Remember how Haman's anger was so great that he planned a public execution of Mordecai.

2. God prohibits you from insulting or provoking, things which can lead to murder.

Matthew 5: 21 ... 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.

One man said it well: No physician can heal the wounds of the tongue.

Proverbs 18:8 The **words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles**, And they go down into the inmost body.搬弄是非的人的言语, 如同美食, 深入人的肺腑。

God prohibits you from **lying under oath**. If you lie, it can lead to murder. Wasn't it David's words that killed Uriah?

2Samuel 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that **he may be struck down and die.**" **9** 'Why have you despised the command of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

False words can also lead to spiritual death.

God prohibits deception, like teachers who tell children it is okay to commit adultery or to spy on their parents...

God prohibits false words from a pastor's mouth or RC priests who gave dispensations特許to murder!

3. God forbids the unlawful taking of human life or the unlawful injuring of someone.

Romans 12:19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance 伸冤is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

King David, though he had opportunity to kill King Saul who was trying to kill him, knew that if he killed Saul he would have been guilty of murder. He had no legal right to kill. So you may not attack and kill an idolater, abortionist, etc., because that would be unlawful. God even forbids the killing of children in the womb. To show the seriousness of protecting life, God ordained the execution of those who murdered the innocent.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

There should be no doubt that even the tiniest baby in the womb is an unborn child.

Exodus 21: 22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly...23
"But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life,

Luke 1:15 - "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.

God never fills tissue with his holy spirit.

Jeremiah 1: 4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

4. Some other things God forbids: God forbids withdrawing the necessary means of preserving life, if it is in your authority and ability. This means euthanasia 安乐死 is murder. Every Member of Parliament and the Senate who votes to allow euthanasia is guilty of the blood of the dead. It doesn't matter if people think that **euthanasia** is a gentle and easy way to die or if euthanasia promote "death with dignity." If you help to murder, you are a murderer in God's eyes.

Further, God forbids immoderate use of food – over eating. God forbids **immoderate working** – over working.

God forbids **laziness** – refusing to work or exercise.

God forbids **reckless driving.** God forbids **promiscuity** 滥交

Romans 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

行事为人要光明磊落，好像行在白昼。不可荒宴醉酒，不可放荡纵欲，不可纷争嫉妒。总要披戴主耶稣基督，不要为肉体安排，去放纵私欲。

The prostitute who **entices the adulterer is guilty of murder** as she is promoting a hatred of the man's wife.

God forbids into bad company-gangs- which can lead to trouble.

God forbids **oppressing others,** for that may cause their death...like slavery.

God forbids suicide-self-murder, regardless of the reasons. Your body and soul belongs to God, not to you.

Prescriptions by God

1. You should love from the heart. Love is the antidote for animosity 仇恨

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor...**

The truth is, you know how highly you think of yourself (self-love) and you quickly forget all the wrongs you may have done (**selective memory** 选择性记忆). The degree of your self-love is the standard you must use for others. You must forget their bad and do what is good for them.

Matthew 18:35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses
如果你们各人不从心里饶恕你的弟兄，我的天父也必这样待你们"

Forgiveness brings closure to an issue. This restores relationships and promotes the protection of life.

2. God prescribes kind words...words that heal... words that protect life, liberty, and property...and helps. Whether it is in court, at the job, in church, or at home, use words to show love.

Speak up if you see someone committing a crime, or you might be contributing to murder.

Report a drunk driver to protect life.

Speak up if you see a covenant child doing something dangerous... or living a sinful lifestyle. This will help to protect life.

Call on those who have sinned to repent. Repentance protects life.

Deal with a problem, rather than keep it in. Bitterness can lead to murder or heart attacks.

Leviticus 19: 17 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

There are times when you cannot avoid conflict and **rebukes are necessary.** Ignoring sin is a lack of love.

Encourage the weak and depressed 忧郁 This means you must know the Scriptures to keep Law 6.

Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

This is particularly applicable not only to parents, but to pastors, elders, and deacons.

Defend the weak ...like sick children in Belgium who can now be euthanized by their parents. Speak to your Member of Parliament to protect life.

3. God prescribes that you be pro-life in your actions. This means you **eat good foods**, as you can reasonably afford. **Exercise. Sleep properly. Love.** Have a **peaceful life. Marry right** – this can affect how you live and how long you live. **Bear one another's burdens. Walk away from sinful situations.** Be **longsuffering** with those who are experiencing difficulties. Be **ready to be reconciled** with those with whom you have a falling-out.

Matthew 5: 23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**

To be pro-life means you have to be pro-active.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**
行事为人要光明磊落，好像行在白昼。不可荒宴醉酒，不可放荡纵欲，不可纷争嫉妒。总要披戴主耶稣基督，不要为肉体安排，去放纵私欲。

Prevent murder, by offering help to a mother who is unable to care for the needs of her child...or offer to baby-sit...or offer to adopt that child. Open your home to an unwed mother so she can have and care for her baby.

Help those who are sickly or in pain. Visit them. Read to them. Talk to them. When they have a stronger reason for living won't lose hope and kill themselves.

Protect the unborn.

4. Be prepared to support public justice, like in the lawful and swift execution of murderers.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

A country that would not execute those who should be executed brings judgment on itself. It has blood on its hands. Execution is a deterrent威慑 for murder, especially for the murderer.

5. Be prepared to be involved in just war to protect the innocent. Love your family enough that you are willing to fight, kill for, and if necessary, die for them.

6. Be prepared to defend yourself, even killing those who attack you, so you can fulfill your duties to your family. Contrary to popular opinion, God does not require that you take injury. Take insult – like a slap? Yes. Take injury? No. You must love your family enough that you fight to **protect your life.**

Conclusion:

Do not murder. Be pro-life. God's image is in man. Think of things that would promote life. Clear your heart of hate, envy, greed, and bitterness. Speak words that encourage, build up, and defend life. Work...work hard and work long, being even willing to give up money, time, and energies for the sake of life, life made in the image of God.

Brothers and Sisters: It is easy to hate, but God commands you to love. You show love by protecting life. When you find it difficult to love and easy to hate and to be envious, greedy and bitter, ask God to take you back to the cross so that you can see what your sins deserved. Then equipped with God's Word and Spirit, you will then fight to please the Lord, the one who paid your ransom. You will work to protect life. With physical life saved, you can then labor for spiritual life for their souls. This is the goal.

Finally, if you are not a Christian I plead with you to plead to the Father to count Christ's life and death as yours, or you will have to die for your own sins in eternity in hell.