

# **Heidelberg Catechism Q&A105-107 – Stop the Murdering**

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: To the world today, life seems quite cheap.

**Religious terrorists (恐怖分子) don't mind killing themselves** to murder a few innocent people.

**Nations are no different.** Before 1989, murders in South Africa averaged about 200 per year. Now South Africans see human life as cheap and the murder 25,000 times each year. The US government is responsible for the killing of more than 50,000,000 babies since 1973.

**Secular philosophies do the same. Communists in the last century slaughtered over 100,000,000 people,** seeing them as standing in the way of a better life.

**We experience these situations because men have rejected God's law against murder.** Either men think God's law is old-fashioned, or they are in direct rebellion against the God of heaven and earth. So today, hear God's teaching on murder.

Our headings are:

**Prohibitions of the Law 6**

**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,** and **that you might labor to protect life and honor Christ your Creator and Re-Creator.**

## **Prohibitions of Law 5**

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

A. I am not to belittle ( 轻视 , 贬低 ) , 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 ( 报复 ) . I am not to harm or recklessly ( 不顾危险地 ) endanger myself either. Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.

**106 Q. DOES THIS COMMANDMENT REFER ONLY TO KILLING?**

A. By forbidding ( 禁止 ) murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness ( 恶毒 , 怀恨在心 ) . In God's sight all such are murder.

**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. Do not have uncontrolled anger, envy, grudges (怨恨) , bitterness, or the desire for personal revenge in your heart.**

**Murder often starts a long time before there is a dead body.** Murder starts in the heart. Hate is the root of murder.

**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 ( 指责 ) 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.

Consider Jacob's sons how their uncontrolled anger in the heart caused them to plot a bloody revenge against Shechem for seducing ( 引诱 ) their sister. They even 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**.

**2. Do not insult or provoke 惹怒 others (using words) for this too 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.

No physician can heal wounds caused by the tongue. More specifically now,

**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.

**God prohibits deception (欺骗)**, like teachers who tell children it is okay to commit adultery (奸淫) or to spy on their parents... or tell them that a baby is just a piece of tissue! And know that these false words can come from pastors also!

**3. Do not unlawfully take human life or unlawfully injure 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 **don't attack and kill an idolater 拜偶像者, abortionist 支持堕胎者**, etc., because that would be unlawful.

God **forbids the killing of children in the womb.** And make no mistake about it, 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.** And again...

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 (使...分别为圣) you;** I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

To show the seriousness of protecting life, **God ordained 命定了 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.

**4. Some other examples of things God forbids with regard to the issues of life:**

**God forbids withdrawing the available necessary means of preserving life – starving someone to death.**

**This means euthanasia (安乐死) is murder.** Every Member of Parliament (国会) and the Senate (参议院) who voted to allow euthanasia is guilty of the blood of every 2 persons murdered each day. It doesn't matter if people think that **euthanasia** is a gentle and easy way to die or if euthanasia promotes "death with dignity (尊严)." If you help to murder, you are a murderer in God's eyes. (So pray for your leaders.)

**God forbids immoderate (过度的) eating – over eating.** Many diseases which lead to death start with immoderate eating.

God forbids **immoderate working** – over working.  
God forbids **laziness** – refusing to work or exercise. This is a common reason for death.  
God forbids **reckless (不小心的) driving where you could kill yourself or others.**  
God forbids **promiscuity (乱交, 淫乱) which often leads to murder through disease and guilt.**  
God forbids being a prostitute (娼妓) who **entices (引诱) the adulterer** as she is promoting a hatred of the man's wife.  
**God forbids getting into bad company-gangs (帮派) - which can lead to injury or death for yourself or others.**  
God forbids **oppressing (压迫) others**, for that may cause their death...like in slavery (奴隶制) .  
God **forbids suicide (自杀) -self-murder**, regardless of the reasons. Your body and soul belongs to God, not to you.

## **Prescriptions by God**

### **1. Love your fellow men from the heart; love is the antidote (解药) for animosity (憎恨, 敌意) .**

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

When you remember that all men were made in the image of God it is easier to love them.

### **2. Speak kind words...words that heal...words that protect life, liberty, and property.**

Whether it is in court, at the job, in church, or at home, use words to show and express love.

**Speak up if you see someone** contributing to murder.

**Report a drunk driver to protect life.**

**Talk to a covenant child (or his parents) if you see him doing something dangerous...** or living a sinful lifestyle.

This will help to protect life. You are your brother's keeper.

**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.

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

**Encourage the weak and depressed.** This means you must know the Scriptures.

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

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

**Learn and practice forgiveness and repentance.** Doing this restores relationships and promotes the protection of life.

**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 ( 过犯 ) ."

### **3. Let pro-life actions flow from your hands.**

This means you **eat good foods**, as you can reasonably afford. **Exercise. Sleep properly.** Have a **peaceful life. Marry right**, for 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** (和好的) 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 ( 荒宴 ) and drunkenness, not in lewdness ( 好色 ) and lust, not in strife ( 争竞 ) and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

**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 ( 未婚的 ) mother so she can have and care for her baby.

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

#### **4. Support public justice ( 正义 ) , like the lawful, careful, 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 ( 处决 ) is a deterrent for murder, especially for the murderer.

#### **5. Be involved in just war, if necessary, to protect the innocent.**

Love your family enough that you are willing to fight, kill for, and if necessary, die for them.

#### **6. Defend yourself, even killing those who attack you, so you can fulfill your duties to your family.**

Contrary to some opinions, God does not require that you take injury. Take insult – like a slap ( 耳光 ) ? Yes. Take injury? No. You must love God and your family enough that you fight to protect your life.

### **Conclusion:**

You must not murder. You must be pro-life. God's image is in man. So think of things that would promote life. Clear your heart of hate, envy, greed ( 贪婪 ) , and bitterness. Speak words that encourage, build up, and defend life. Work hard and work long, being willing to give up money, time, and energies for the sake of life.

Brothers and Sisters:

**1. It is easy to hate –which is the root of murder. It is easy to speak evil of those you don't like. It is not hard to even murder. But God commands you to love. When you**

find it difficult to love and easy to hate and be envious greedy and bitter, and when you develop a desire to hurt someone, ask God to take you back to the cross so that you can see what your sins deserved and you can be refreshed with true love for others.

**2. Then equipped with God's Word and Spirit,** fight to please the Lord, the one who paid your ransom 赎金. Desire, speak, and work to protect life.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, know that your life does not belong to you. You have to live for him. But you can't by yourself. I therefore 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.