



“Hold Life as Sacred”
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Pastor Tony Arnold
CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

“You must not murder.”
Exodus 20:13 (LB)

MURDER – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Why this is so important to God:

_____ is _____.

“If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.”

Genesis 9:6 (NLT)

2. Murder doesn’t just happen:

It always emerges from _____.

For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.

Mark 7:21-22 (NLT)

3. A failure to follow any of the relational commandments about our neighbors can end in murder in extreme cases:

- (#5) Dishonoring our parents can end in murder (#6).
- (#7) Committing adultery can end in murder (#6).
- (#8) Stealing can end in murder (#6).
- (#9) Bearing false witness can end in murder (#6).
- (#10) Coveting what someone else has can end in murder (#6).

THE FIRST MURDER – WHAT CAIN’S STORY CAN TEACH US

1. How you _____ before God _____.

When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Genesis 4:3-5 (NLT)

2. _____ is tied to accepting _____.

“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected? You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”

Genesis 4:6-7 (NLT)

3. Sin destroys our sense of life giving _____.

Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” “I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?””

Genesis 4:8-9 (NIV)

4. Acting on sin results in _____ and _____.

Cain replied to the LORD, “My punishment is too great for me to bear! You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

Genesis 4:13-14 (NIV)

CAIN’S STORY INVITES YOU TO

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO HOLD LIFE AS SACRED?

1. _____ your _____.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment...therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:21-24 (NIV)

2. Speak _____ with your _____.

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

James 3:9-10 (NIV)

3. Confront _____ and _____ others.

“No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

Isaiah 58:6-7 (NLT)

4. Treat _____ as your _____.

'If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not do wrong to him. You should act toward the stranger who lives among you as you would toward one born among you. Love him as you love yourself. For you were strangers in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NLV)

Sources: *New Interpreter's Bible Vol 1, Be My People: Sermons on the 10 Commandments* by Marrs, *The Daily Study Bible: Exodus* by Ellison, and various illustrations from Preaching Today.

ANSWER KEY:

1. **HUMAN LIFE** is **SACRED**.
2. It always emerges from **THE HEART**.

THE FIRST MURDER:

1. How you **LIVE** before God **MATTERS**.
 2. **ACCEPTANCE** is tied to accepting **GOD'S WILL**.
 3. Sin destroys our sense of life-giving **COMMUNITY**.
 4. Acting on sin results in **FEAR** and **WANDERING**.
- Cain's story invites you to **HOLD LIFE AS SACRED**.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE:

1. **RECONCILE** your **DIFFERENCES**.
2. Speak **LIFE** with your **TONGUE**.
3. Confront **INJUSTICE** and **SERVE** others.
4. Treat **EVERYONE** as your **NEIGHBOR**.