

# The Fifth Commandment





# The Fifth Commandment

- **YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.**
- What does this mean?
- *We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.*



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What does God forbid in the Fifth Commandment?
  - God forbids us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide)
  - God forbids us to hurt or harm our neighbor physically, that is, to do or say anything which may destroy, shorten, or make his or her life bitter.
  - God forbids us to keep anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor.



# Kill, Murder, etc...

- God forbids any action that takes or harms human life. The Bible recognizes three basic types of murder. Literal, Indirect, and Figurative.
  - Literal Murder
    - Taking someone's life, either by your own hands or using others.
    - Causing an involuntary or accidental death
    - Taking one owns life (suicide)

Note: Black text is generally from Terry K. Dittmer's "Keeping the Faith"



# Murder, Harm, Hate

## – Indirect:

- Plotting or contributing to another's death
- Causing another person bodily harm

## – Figurative:

- Neglecting to help and support others in need
- Hating others



# Neglect

- Neglect or unwillingness to help in times of trouble and need is to destroy God's gift of life.





# Consequences of Literal Murder

- Murder destroys life, a person created in the “image” and “likeness” of God. (Genesis 1:26)
- Murder breaks apart families and shatters friendships.
- Murder undermines law and order in society.
- Murder may be punishable by death.
- Murder is usually punished with lengthy or “life” prison sentences.



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- Does anyone have authority to take another person's life?
  - Yes, lawful government, as God's servant, may execute criminals and fight just wars.







# Capital Punishment

- Murder is wrong. God's Word affirms that governments have the right to punish – even execute – murderers. But God forgives murderers. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to earn forgiveness for all sins, including murder.





# Capital Punishment

- There is no doubt that God's Word allows for capital punishment. But many Christians have agonized over the question down through the years.
  - They struggle with taking a life in any way.
  - They may come to believe that life in prison is a better alternative.
  - With this alternative the criminal's freedom "to live" is taken from him without requiring him to die.



# Capital Punishment

- *For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:3-4)*



# When is Taking Life **Not** Murder?

- Accidentally taking a life (**manslaughter**)
- Self defense
- Performing one's duties as a soldier when protecting life and nation





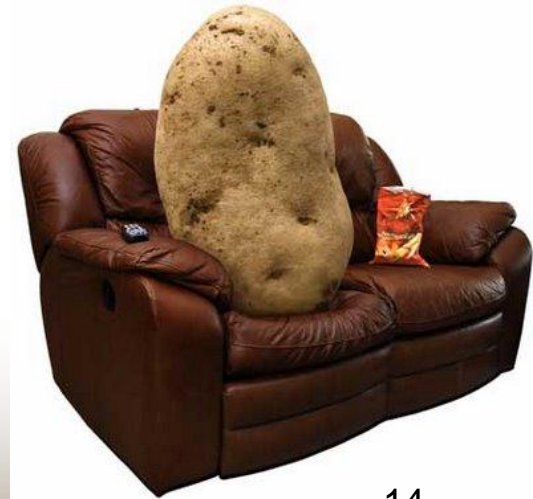
# We Keep the Fifth Commandment When...

- We help and befriend another human being by
  - Providing food, drink, shelter
  - Offering good advice and counsel
  - Tending to medical needs
  - Being kind
- We apologize for any hurt we may have caused



# We Keep the Fifth Commandment When...

- We take care of our own bodies
  - The Bible says our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)
  - We need to eat the right foods, a balanced diet...
  - We need to get enough exercise
  - We need to get enough rest
  - We must avoid bad habits..





# Trashing the Temple



1998



2002





# What are some examples of taking unnecessary risks?



## TAKING RISK

There's a fine line between taking a calculated risk and doing something dumb.





# Abortion

- Psalm 139:13-16
  - *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*



# Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 1:4-5
  - *The word of the Lord came to me, saying “before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*



# Fetus or Baby?



- Some people say that the unborn is just a “fetus,” a mass of tissue. God sees the fetus for what it is and what it will be. With God’s divine acknowledgement, it’s hard to see abortion as anything but murder.



# Avoiding Abortion

- Abstinence. It works every time it's tried.
- Adoption.



# Suicide

- Suicide is taking one's own life. People who take their own life most often have serious problems.
  - Depression
  - Physical pain
  - Emotional / Spiritual pain
  - Mental health
- These people need our care and support. They need our prayers. They need friendship.





# What can we do?

- Encourage friends with suicidal thoughts to talk about their problems.
  - Never promise to keep a secret
  - Encourage them to get help
  - Refer them to a pastor or trusted counselor



# The Consequence of Suicide

- What happens to someone who commits suicide?
  - Yes, suicide is murder, since it involves taking a life.
    - But... We also have a great, kind, merciful God. We leave judgments in His hands. We don't make any pronouncements. We know God's will is right. We also know God will comfort us in our loss and sadness.



# Catechism – Questions and Answers

- What does God require of us in the Fifth Commandment?
  - We should help and support our neighbor in every bodily need.
  - We should be merciful, kind, and forgiving towards our neighbor.
  - We should avoid and assist our neighbor in avoiding the abuse of drugs and the use of any substance that harms the body and the mind.





# The Importance of Doctrine



Watch “Vanilla Essentialism”  
on Worldview Everlasting  
(starting at 03:00)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9JM6KSU3F0>