

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Fall/Winter, 2018

Pastor Jim Otte

“Foundational Truth for a Confused World: The Ten Commandments”

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Session Thirteen: The Fifth Commandment – Thou shalt not kill (murder).
As God’s ‘beloved,’ love the sacredness of life in self and your neighbor!

From Last Session:

1. To “honor” someone in authority means to humbly find and submit to the majesty hidden in that person.
2. Authority figures can be guilty of abuse; in those cases, Christians are obligated to honor them enough to report them and/or protect the victims.
3. The home is the training ground for gratitude and mercy toward authority figures.

Luther’s (Small Catechism) Meaning of the Fifth Commandment: We should fear and love God, so that we may not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in bodily need (in every need and danger of life and body).

Matthew 5:21-22. *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[b][c]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’^[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.’*

- a. **“who is angry”** – raging at another person; harshness; grudges, contemptuousness.
- b. **“Raca”** – insulting language; demeaning
- c. **“You fool”** – judging the heart or motives of another without complete information.
- d. **Foundational Truth #26:** The danger posed by an angry heart, is that it fails to _____ the offender as “beloved” by God, too.

Ephesians 4:26. *“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,*

- a. **“do not sin”** – acting out, while angry, is likely to bring harm
- b. **“let the sun go down”** – ruminating in anger can, over time, cause harm to your relationships and your health.
 - i. Stress chemistry remains in your body/mind three times longer than the chemistry of joy.
 - ii. The longer you remain in your anger, the more difficult it will be to recall any memories of happy or joyful times!
 - iii. Anger, over time, becomes resentment.
 - iv. **Job 5:2.** *Resentment kills a fool; and envy slays the simple.*

- c. **James 1:19-20.** *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.*
- d. **Proverbs 22:24-25.** *Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵ or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.*

Foundational Truth #27: The _____ cause of such toxic anger is found within us – evil desire, which _____ an advantage over others.

- a. **James 1:13-15.** *When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*
 - i. **James 3:16.** *For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every evil practice.*

What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment is the diminishing of the sacredness of life, by:

- a. **Suicide: taking one’s own life**
 - i. We are to avoid making sweeping judgments about the salvation of those who commit suicide.
 - 1. A desperate attempt to escape a painful life.
 - 2. Mental illness: depression, anxiety, paranoia
 - 3. Unintentional “success”
 - ii. We commit a Christian to the mercies of God, trusting that God knows that person’s heart/motives.
- b. **Murder: taking the life of another with an offensive intent (not defending oneself)**
- c. **Abortion on Demand**
 - i. Life considered to begin at conception (Lutheran view).
 - ii. Sacredness of life: all life is valued by God
 - iii. Life of the mother to be considered if that difficult choice is faced.
 - iv. Pro-Life (Lutherans for Life)
 - v. Support adoption services
- d. **Euthanasia or Mercy-Killing**
 - i. Sacredness of life is not determined by its usefulness or the quality of life
 - ii. The desire to relieve temporal suffering or terminal illness is often the motive.