

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 Fifteen: 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:

- a. Anger is an appropriate emotional reaction to the grief associated with loss.
- b. Because anger does produce an increase in strength and power, you have to be careful that you don’t over-react.

What sacredness of life is celebrated under the Fifth Commandment:

- a. **Artificial Fertilization**
 - i. Can be a wonderful option for couples struggling to conceive
 - ii. Can be troubling if desire is to create “perfect” children.
- b. **Birth-Control: preventing life** (vs. Roman Catholic view of killing life)
 - i. Exception: Morning After pills
- c. **Grieving deaths of all people, especially infants and children**
 - i. Miscarriages, still-births: Lutheran liturgy provides a rite for the burial of remains, if desired.
 - ii. Supportive of “Compassionate Friends”
 - iii. Supportive of “The Warm Place”
- d. **Improving the quality of life for the ill, lonely, impoverished, imprisoned among us.**
 - i. Shut-in ministry
 - ii. Hospital visitation
 - iii. Card ministry
 - iv. Meals that Heal
 - v. Comfort Dog: Triton
 - vi. Jail ministry
 - vii. Social assistance
 - viii. Supporting adoptive services

e. **Ultimate Aim:** Be a “Neighbor...”

Luke 10:25-37. *On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”^[c]; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”^[d]²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”*

²⁹ *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- a. **“he wanted to justify himself”** – Jesus’ assertion of **“Do this...”** hit the guilt button in this expert, who prided himself in knowing the law.
- b. **Foundational Truth #28:** It’s easy to talk the talk of love, in an intellectual way. It’s hard to walk the walk of _____, when it requires you to take merciful action.
- c. **“the one who had mercy on him”** – the sacredness of the life of your neighbor has practical applications: how will you treat him/her in your daily walk, when he:
 - i. is not neighborly? (He lets his dog ----- in your yard).
 - ii. Is undocumented?
 - iii. Ignores any legitimate complaints you have about him?
 - iv. Acted in a foolish manner, got caught, and is suffering the consequences?
 - v. Triggers your annoyance or anger.