

chapter 20 verse 13. These are God's words.

You shall not murder.

So far the reading of God's inspired and in errant worked,

Murder has an infamous history and the Lord Jesus says of Satan that he is the murderer from the beginning. It was his desire who could not attack God and fend. That one of these creatures had been made in God's image that he sought to bring upon them. The curse in the day that you eat of it.

You shall surely die. He was not unlike and this may mean more to you older people, or at least older old enough to remember the 80s with me. He was not unlike the Iranians who had a fear of their government and maybe, you know, frenzied up by their imams in the molas would march through the streets.

With giant poster. Boards of Ronald Reagan raging and just slashing with swords and setting them on fire. The actual President of the United States was out of the average Iranians reach and so they attacked his image. Well, praise God. He is out of Satan's reach, but Satan hates him.

And the attacks is image, and we ought to be much sobered. That our Lord Jesus tells us that the hatred and the heart the quick risings of anger that are not from justice. But from personal hostility, the name calling of Raqqa or the lashing out retort you fool. And so on that, these all come from the same place, not loving God, not loving his image in man, and participating in the murder that has originated with the one who is the murderer from the beginning.

And so there are two options in interacting with others who are made in the image of God. You're either an imitator of Satan or you're an imitated imitator of Christ and the Lord comes to us and came to Israel here. He said you shall not murder. Then you of the history of the garden.

They knew the history of the first murder, among men. Remember Cain was angry as offering was not of faith and therefore has actions. We're not a faith, didn't worship God, according to what God had said, and what God had revealed as the way of worshiping Him. And when God was pleased with that, which was according to faith, whatever is not a faith, is sin, his attack on his brother.

Came from the same place that his disregard for God and God's holiness, and God's right to be worshiped in the way that he is revealed. It came from the same heart, his hatred for Abel was an expression of his disregard. For the God in whose image Abel was made, This, of course, is why there is such a thing as just killing of

murderers.

There are many words that the Holy Spirit might have chosen many words that God might have chosen for killing in the Hebrew. The one that is picked, here is one. That means to strike down with intent. It is premeditated. It is hostile. And it is well translated here as murder.

And God had told them. Why? All the way back to Noah. He had told them. Why murder is so wrong. We know that it was sin and that it was a particular sin that crouches at the doors of our hearts. Isn't that what God said to Cain when he'd already offered the wrong worship?

And he had already been irritated that he was not accepted. What did the Lord tell him sin? Crouches at your heart, it's desire is for you but you must rule over it. And so we already know before we get to Exodus chapter 20, who the father of murder is the way murder is a sin that desires our hearts and then the the greatness of the offense and wickedness of murder Genesis 9.

Beginning in verse 6, whoever sheds man's blood by man, his blood shall be shed for in the image of God. He made man. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it. God in his love for his image. In man, is undeterred by the fact that men are sinful Before.

The flood God says that he looked. And he saw that every intention of the thoughts of men's hearts were only evil and that continually you probably wouldn't get away with such a redundant sense of sentence in your homeschooling writing, but God can see what man is and you think, oh well, that was the generation from which he redeemed Noah, but Noah gets off the boat and it's just him and his family.

At the end of chapter 8 and he says, I will never again, curse the ground for man's sake. Although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth And so God knows what we are like. And yet, he loves his image and man. And he wants the earth to be full of his image in, man.

This is why people are you one of those full quiverist people. Oh, I'm one of those image of goddess. People's, I'm one of those. Be fruitful and multiply people and why? Yes, if he talks about blessing in the terms of full quivery on, I'm into being blessed by God too, Thank you.

However, many is fine. We all have the size quiver as it were that is assigned to us by God. And yet God here, ties the death penalty for murderers. So that there is just killing God Himself. As a killer Scripture says he cannot lie but he is a killer.

Why? Because he vindicates the glory, the goodness of his image in

man. By the just execution of those who murder and it comes from the same place that wants the earth full of image, bearers. And that's why We want to be not imitators of Satan but imitators of Christ, who love the image of God in man.

Now Christ in order for the glory of God's name and He comes and he's on his way to the cross. He says, Father, glorify your name and he is eager that the glory of God would be displayed in the cross, and he's eager that that he would redeem us who have sinned and fallen.

So that we would be what so that we would be justified. Yes. But so we would be justified in order to be conformed to the image of His Son so that he might be the firstborn. Among many brethren justification is a step towards renewed image, bearing. That's what God, predestined those who he had foreknown unto that.

We would be renewed image bearers. And so Jesus has this perfect love for God and His glory. That produces love for God's image in others and their good. You see, seeking human flourishing is not by itself. The keeping of the sixth commandment seeking the flourishing of humans redeemed and conformed to the image of God in Christ.

That's the only real flourishing anyway isn't it? But that is the love of fellow man that comes from this priority in the sixth commandment upon the image of God. That's why we are, we ought to be mortified by meaning horrified act and mortifying our risings of the heart against other people that bitterness in our mouth and our spirit when we think of them animosity and hostility that quick, that person in your family and you know who it is, probably that you have the quickest sharpest reply to where you've built up that that reflex of not.

I know we all want to tell ourselves I'm just loving them by wanting them to be conformed to Christ. Well give instruction give correction but if you if you come with the reflecting retort of acid sword and flame, don't excuse yourself before God There are people who are foolish and they need to be taught that they're foolish.

But that reflex where you say, you full Jesus says that that reflects of the heart is culpable of hell before God, isn't it? So we need to to have the word come and, and exposed to us where our love is not being driven by a love for God's image and others.

So, how do we keep the commandment? Well, first of all you need to love God and how do you love God? You love him? Because he first loved us and how do you know He loved you? Because he gave Christ for you and as we heard even this morning that is the revelation of himself to know.

God is to know Jesus Christ And if you don't know Jesus you don't know. God to love. God is to love Jesus Christ. And if you don't love

Jesus then you don't love God. And so we foster our love by knowing Christ and knowing God's love for us in.

Christ meditating much upon him. There is a wonderful sweetening of your spirit, isn't there? When you think upon dwell upon how God has been pleased to make himself known, especially in Jesus, as he was saving you and that he made you to know love by the love in which he gave Christ for you and in which Christ laid his himself down for you to hear the Lord, Jesus praying for the forgiveness of those who are crucifying Him.

And to know that we have attacked God's image over and over and over again. In our hearts, the greatest part of his image, being the display, the communication of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is God's greatest display of himself and so we see Jesus's love for us. And the more you are sweetened by that, the more you can be properly grieved, and agonized Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, because they did not know the time of their visitation.

And so, you can hold justice and love for God and His glory as known and displayed. In Christ, in one hand, without having bitterness of heart and hostility of heart, that hostile spirit that malice and animosity in without having that in the other. If we love God's image and man and we see that even in the preservation of our earthly life, there is a respect unto his image.

We ought to do things like care for the body in life and in death, which means a Christian would ostensibly be someone who makes sure that he's, he's paying attention to what kind of nourishment he gets and not eating and drinking in a way that is going to be harmful to himself and wants to also, make sure that he's getting a good amount of exercise.

But he's not going to be that that always trying to find the secret to you know the fountain of youth way to eat and drink and the can't do anything except go to the gym all day. And as always looking for the new treatment that is going to get longevity because we're in corrupting decaying bodies, and you have respect for the body in life as something made in the image of God.

Take care of your health, take care of other's health, but also respect for the body and death, knowing that these bodies are seeds that go into the ground and for believers or come out of the ground glorified like unto Christ's resurrected body and so union with Christ and the future recrafting of that body at death is something that makes us respond to God's image, even at death.

And then we do not seek death, but we do not fear death. So some things for instance should be obvious. Abortion is satanic. Euthanizing. The intentional killing or withholding ordinary comfort

and provision, like, food and drink from someone. In order that they may die is murder. But at the same time, we don't have to cling with extraordinary and unwise for all intents and purposes hopeless measures as the levers because we're not afraid to put the corrupting the corruptible perishable, perishing body in the ground knowing that it is going to be raised incorruptible and imperishable And so we don't have to participate.

For instance, in what this wicked culture that sanctions all sorts of murder did a couple years ago and do all kinds of stupid foolish things ostensibly in the name of avoiding death. But we know that those who control others didn't really avoiding death. Preventing death was not, their concern has exposed by their lack of concern in so many other cases.

But there is especially then a priority on the soul Evangelistic prayer and looking for and taking opportunities of evangelism are one of the greatest duties of the Sixth Commandment because that person will die that person will appear at the judgment and they will either die and appear at the judgment with Christ's righteousness and sacrifice or without it If we love God's image in our fellow man.

And if we love especially the renewed image of God through Christ in the redeemed, man, then let us keep the sixth commandment by carrying much for the conversion of our neighbor and doing that, which God has placed within our power to participate in the means by which he converts.

And if there's a priority on souls, then there's also a priority of believers because he who is in Christ as a new creation. Jesus is the last Adam. And therefore, we do good to all, but especially to the household of faith. That's not a new principle in the New Testament.

That is a necessary consequence of the Bible logic behind the sixth commandment that. The value of a man is the image of God and therefore, we have a special love for believers of our neighbor. He says, love your neighbor as yourself of believers. He says, love one another. As I have loved you, and the one joined to Jesus, by faith, the community of those who profess their faith, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Has a necessary priority to us as a right application of the sixth commandment, because again, we are to love the image of God and particularly Christ, who is the image of God and therefore, Christians who are renewed in the image of God. But also therefore even our neighbor and our enemy who are made in the image of God, When we think about all that, this commandment requires.

We must agree with God that we are guilty of breaking it but then let us also agree with God that Christ has perfectly kept. It, he is not

only the image of God, but the great lover of those made in his image. And if he is yours than his, obedience is counted.

As yours has sacrificed. But the way you're breaking all of those hatreds of the heart that are so convicting to read, Jesus talk about and the reflex of the mouth that comes out of that heart. Jesus has put those things away for all who believe in him and belong to him.

But now, let us look to him because the promise is the predestining is that we would be conformed to the image of the Son. Amen. Let's pray. Lord, we thank you for the clarity of your word. We we are impressed by the exceeding broadness of your law and convicted by what it requires in heart and speech, let alone conduct and we thank you for Christ and His perfection in keeping this part of the law.

We thank you for his perfect. Infinite atonement. And we pray that your spirit would keep doing the work of conforming us to him and his name also. Now we ask it. Amen.