

10 Words of Grace. A Study of the Ten Commandments.

Week #7: Exodus 20. Murder.

October 28, 2018

If you asked your neighbor what they thought of the 10 Commandments, you would probably get two responses. The first is that they are generally a good set of rules to follow. The second, however, would be that they have little if any idea of what the Commandments specifically say - people generally know they allude to 'the golden rule', but really don't know much more than that.

Most of us don't think about the Commandments much anymore ... if we're honest, we might say that they make us feel a bit guilty about our behavior. This fall, however, I want to challenge us to look at them *not* as a set of guilt-inducing Commands, but rather as words of grace from our loving Father in Heaven. Let's learn to see them as a beautiful mountain range that stands vigil over us generation after generation. And let us more importantly see that they point us carefully to God's grace poured out in Jesus Christ. *The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.* (Galatians 3:24).

Questions: #6 - Murder.

1. Ken began by reminding everyone that people are the pinnacle of God's creating activity, and that we are made in His image.
 - Read Genesis 1:26-30. What are some of the unique things about humanity that sets us apart from the rest of God's creating activity?
 - What does it mean to be made in the image of God?
2. Ken mentioned that studies have shown people everywhere generally have a strong aversion to murder. Do you think this is part of what it means to be created in the image of God? (Gen 9:6)
3. Read Matthew 5:21-24, 38-48. Jesus illuminated the truth that in our hearts all of us have committed murder, because we do not cherish others as we do ourselves or, as God does.
 - What does it mean to "cherish" someone? How you have cherished those around you this past week?
4. Ken taught that "murder" begins in my insecurities (heart), takes root in my desires & fantasies (mind), and bleeds into my words & my conduct (behavior).
 - Think of someone you have "murdered". Working backward, can you trace your words & conduct back to the desires & fantasies of your mind, and finally to the insecurities within your heart that began it all?
 - Read Matthew 15:1-20. What insecurities were the Pharisees and teachers of the law struggling with? Where do we find these in our churches today?
5. When I "murder" someone I, too, die:
 - spiritually - I become isolated from God's grace & mercy
 - emotionally - I am arrested by my bitterness & depression
 - relationally - I am fractured in my ability to love others
 - physically - I suffer with stress-induced illness, often "medicating" my anger & hurt.
 - mentally - I become obsessed with retaliation, revenge & "justice"
6. Jesus made the 10 Commandments personal issues of the heart - moving murder from something we'd never do to something we need to confess that we have done.
 - Take a moment and confess to God those whom you have "murdered".
 - Next, read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8. How might you begin to practice love to those that are easier to hate?