

The 5th 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.

1. What does God forbid in the 5th Commandment?
 - a. God forbids us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide): Genesis 9:6; Matthew 26:52 (cf. Genesis 4:8; 2 Samuel 11:15; Exodus 21:29; Deuteronomy 22:8; Matthew 27:5).
 - i. Abortion—the living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother: Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:16 (cf. Luke 1:41-44).
 - ii. Euthanasia—the severely handicapped, infirm, helpless, and aged are persons in the sight of God with life given by Him and to be ended only by Him: Proverbs 6:16-17; 31:8; Acts 17:25.
 - iii. Suicide—my own life is a gift of God to be ended only by Him: Jeremiah 31:3; Luke 12:22.
 - b. God forbids us to hurt or harm our neighbor physically, that is, to do or say anything that may destroy, shorten, or make his or her life bitter: Deuteronomy 32:39; Romans 12:19 (cf. Genesis 37:23-35; Exodus 1).
 - c. God forbids us to keep anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor: Matthew 5:22; 1 John 3:15; Matthew 15:19; Ephesians 4:26 (cf. Acts 7:54; Genesis 4:5-7).
2. Does anyone have authority to take another person's life?
 - a. Yes, lawful government, as God's servant, may execute criminals and fight just wars: Romans 13:4.
3. What does God require of us in the 5th Commandment?
 - a. We should help and support our neighbor in every bodily need: Romans 12:20 (cf. Genesis 14:12-16; 1 Samuel 26:1-12; Luke 10:33-35).
 - b. We should be merciful, kind, and forgiving toward our neighbor: Matthew 5:5, 7, 9; 6:15; Ephesians 4:32 (cf. Luke 17:11-19; Matthew 8:5-13; Genesis 45:1-16).
 - c. We should avoid and assist our neighbor in avoiding the abuse of drugs and the use of any substance that harms the body and mind: 2 Corinthians 7:1.