

February 17, 2019



Exodus 20:13

### **SERMON SUMMARY**

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.”

Exodus 20:13

**The heart of the sixth commandment is about life and a commitment to protect it.**

- God is a God of life. It was not His intention for people to experience death, which came because of sin.
- In Genesis 9:5-6, God declares that life has immeasurable value. The price for a life, is a life.

**Why is life important?**

**All life is valuable because we are created in the image of God.**

Even if:

- You suffer from a long-term disability,
- You have a child with special needs,
- You have feelings of guilt and shame,

you are welcome in our community because we all are created in God’s image. As a church, we need to celebrate, protect, and value human life because we all carry God’s image. No amount of sin can diminish the Imago Dei in you.

### **Jesus Transforms the Command**

- Murder is a subset of killing. Murder specifically refers to premeditated killing. Going through just war is not murder, killing someone out of self-defense is not murder, accidental killing is not murder.
- **Murder is not just a physical act of violence, but the violent intent of the heart.**
- In Matthew 5:21-22, Jesus says it’s possible to murder someone with our unrighteous anger.
  - **Feel anger, think danger**
    - Ephesians 4:26-27
    - We progress from anger (feelings in your heart) to insult (diminishing people’s worth actively or passively), to saying “you fool!” (fixated hatred, anger that’s like ready to murder) – verse 22

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- Anger is equal to murder in the eyes of Jesus because anger causes us to see a person less than the image of God
- **Work to restore life**
  - Matthew 5:23-24 – Be reconciled with your brother and sister before anger gets a foothold in your life

## Abortion

### Statistics

- According to the CDC, 881,000 abortions took place in 2017
- According to the American Journal of Public Health, nearly 1 in 4 (23.7%) of women will have an abortion by age 45

### When does life begin?

- There isn't a point when we transition from being non-human to human. In the womb, we have a baby who's fully human. We don't get "more human" as we develop.
- The Bible proclaims that God is the author and sustainer of life from womb to tomb
  - Psalm 139:13
  - Jeremiah 1:5
  - Psalm 51:5
- **The question isn't, "When does life begin?" but "When is the soul created?, When is the image of God placed on us?"**

### How should we respond?

- For the skeptic: *wrestle with truth – found in God's Word*
- For the church:
  - *We must not say of abortion, "This is murder," without saying to pregnant women who may be contemplating abortion, "We will serve you."*
    - This shows we understand the Gospel
    - We must listen, love, foster, adopt, give money, babysit, donate supplies, mentor young women, and support in whatever ways God has equipped us
  - *We must confess the sins of indifference and/or judgmentalism*
- For all the mothers and fathers who have aborted: *where sin abounds, grace abounds even more.*

## DISCUSSION

### Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
- Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
- Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
- The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions:** 1) *What is God saying to me in His Word?*, 2) *What is He asking me to do in response?*
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Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.

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### **RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself**

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

### **QUESTIONS**

*Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!*

### **Getting to know you**

- Who are those in our society that people deem to have “less” value than others? (ex. disabled, poor, uneducated, incarcerated, etc)
- All people are made in God’s image. What are some things we do to others (or even think about others) that can destroy their inherent Imago Dei (image of God)?

### **Into the Bible**

- **Read Exodus 20:13.** Can you recall from the sermon what’s considered “murder”?
  - *Murder is a subset of killing. Murder specifically refers to premeditated killing. Going through just (lawful, fair) war is not murder, killing someone out of self-defense is not murder, accidental killing is not murder.*
- **Read Genesis 9:5-6.** Why does God declare that all life is of immeasurable value?
  - *Because we all bear God’s image, or Imago Dei*
- What does it mean that we are made in the image of God?
  - *We reflect God’s character; we are unique compared to the rest of creation; no matter what physical or mental disability you have, you are valuable because you are created in God’s image!*
- **Read Matthew 5:21-22.** Why does Jesus say that anger is equal to murder?
  - *Because anger is thinking of people as anything less than having the image of God.*
- How have you seen this happen in your heart? Have you moved from the progression of anger to insults to fixated anger (verse 22)? Think to yourself:
  - Is there someone you’re hoping harm comes to?
  - Is there someone you dream of telling off?
  - Is there a group of people you don’t like?

### **Application**

- What are things you can do when you sense anger welling up inside of you?

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- **Ephesians 4:26-27.** Paul takes anger seriously – he tells us to not allow the enemy to get a foothold in our lives because of our anger. Jesus also takes it seriously in **Matthew 5:23-24** – if someone is angry with you, reconcile with them.
- What are Bible truths you can recall when you sense anger welling up in side of you?
  - Ex. everyone has God's image, Jesus paid His life for that person's life, Jesus doesn't hold anger against you, etc
- **Read Leviticus 19:18.** This can be considered the opposite of murder. Think to yourself or journal: How can you love and serve those you are angry at? Are there feelings of indifference or judgmentalism you need to confess to Jesus?
- Jesus says murder, or anger, begins in our hearts. Only when we have heart transformation (which only the Holy Spirit can do), can we have total life transformation. Everyone pray as a group for the prompts below.

### **PRAY**

Thank God that He is a God of life, and declares all are valuable to Him. Ask God to help you to see all people the way He does, and to help you value all life like He does.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the ways that you have been holding anger against or acting out in anger towards someone (murder). Ask Him if there's any next steps you need to take (ex. reconciliation, forgiveness, have a conversation, etc).

Ask God to show you ways you can stand by and serve those who are being impacted by certain decisions to share the Gospel (ex. abortion). Repent of sins of indifference or judgmentalism.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### *College students*

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm! We'll be back at MU13.

A **freshmen event** is happening THIS Friday – they're painting with Bob Ross! It'll be at 6pm at 1019 SW 13<sup>th</sup> St, Apt B (Cat Hoang's apartment). Whether you consider yourself an artist or just want to hang out, spend time with your fellow freshmen (especially if you don't know everyone in your class)! For rides, contact Sandra Li or Melissa Ibrahim.

**All-Campus Worship** will be on Tuesday at 7:30pm in the MU Ballroom. Gather with other campus ministries to worship God!

#### *Senior adults*

The next **day trip** is on Thursday, February 28 to the **Historic Carousel and Museum** in downtown Albany. Please meet at church at 11am to ride to eat lunch at Izzy's then go to Albany together. Cost is \$2 for the carousel.

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*All church*

**Sign up for the Peru Mountains mission trip**, happening April 20-28. If you are interested or have questions, contact Doug Boddy at 541-223-3484 or visit [grantavebc.org/missions](http://grantavebc.org/missions).

**Baptism Sunday** is on March 10. If you are interested in being baptized or have questions, contact Pastor Bryan or Pastor Don or write it on your communication card on Sunday.

**Vacation Bible School** is happening July 8-12! If you want to volunteer to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, music, or anything else, contact Carrie Bernard at [carrie@grantavebc.org](mailto:carrie@grantavebc.org).