

## I. Prohibition - Deuteronomy 5:17

1. "Murder" is a way to translate vs "kill"
  - this word is never used for killing an animal- but always another human life
  - this word is not used for execution
- Rea
  - capital punishment
2. It is used for deliberate killing - not accidental murder
  - premeditated murder - deliberate
  - the non-sanctioned taking of a human life - "homicide"
3. What about abortion or euthanasia?
  - honor killing is still practiced in some cultures
  - the prophets condemned the killing of children - in sacrifice to Molech (a pagan god)
4. To times when killing is "allowed" by the Bible
  - A. Capital punishment - Gen. 9:6
    - Rea
      - that verse makes capital punishment commanded... not allowed!
  - B. A soldier at war
    - \*Life is so sacred that we do not get the option to kill or not to kill - we do not get a "choice"
5. So what constitutes "life?"
  - A. Quality of life questions dodge the issue - as in the case of euthanasia
  - B. Assisted suicides are just that "suicides"
  - Rea
    - C. Many, if not even most of us have had times when we "wanted to" die or felt that death would be better than to go on, - either for "honor" or in pain
      - if we kill in some places it opens the door for other cases
      - for example, just how much pain is enough pain to "kill" a person?
6. Abortion is a growing problem in our day
  - A. A fetus has a heartbeat and can feel pain
  - Rea
    - B. Brain waves happen early on
    - C. The Bible treats the baby in the womb as human
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. Doesn't using the word "fetus" make it somehow okay? to abort for some?
  2. If a doctor says it's okay does that make it okay?
  3. We would be appalled if someone killed a puppy, but not so much with an unborn child
  4. How do we justify abortion? Further, how can you justify voting for anyone who is in favor of abortion? Does that not mean that we have sanctioned this "killing?"
  5. Where is the "common sense?" - if you kill someone you will be killed

## II. Grace - Deuteronomy 19:4-10

1. Accidental killing (**verses 4-6**)
  - A. Called manslaughter often
  - B. The word in the Hebrew is the same - but here the idea of an unintentional killing is considered
  - C. Unintentional means without forethought

2. How they “prosecuted”
- A. Without a police officer justice was determined on a local level
    - elders held the trial
    - guilty parties would pay restitution or be punished in some other way
      - 1) sometimes people would be beaten
      - 2) sometimes fined
      - 3) sometimes imprisoned
  - B. In the case of accidental homicide the person’s life would be taken by the “avenger of blood”
    - in such a case the killer would flee to a city of refuge to await trial
    - these cities were set up to give a “fair trial”- not to allow people to “get away with it”
3. City of refuge (**verses 7-10**)
- A. Also at Exodus 21:12-14 and Numbers 35:9-15
    - the avenger of blood could not go in an avenge if this person was living in such a city
      - responsibility and fairness was at stake
  - B. In comparison with Christ there are differences
    - 1) we flee to the city because we are not guilty, we flee to Christ because we ARE guilty
    - 2) elders determine if innocent, we know we ARE guilty when coming to Christ
    - 3) those who go to a city, must remain there, we who are in Christ are set free
  - C. My take on cities of refuge
    - 1) a place to flee just like Jesus
    - 2) unintentional murderer is set free - when we own responsibility for our sins, we can be set free - this is commonly known as “repentance”
    - 3) a person (Jesus) vs a place (city)
    - 4) to be declared “free” we must remain in Christ - the punishment falls on Jesus, not on us - just as the punishment of “rain” fell on the people of Noah’s day - once you get “into” Christ, you are never “out”
    - 5) the “avenger” is also called “redeemer” - just pursues us, as the avenger to the city, - justice is served... but it falls on Christ, not the guilty party (us)
- Ideas and Questions:**
1. Life is sacred - we seem to have lost that in this passage - it is so sacred it MUST be avenged
  2. Man’s “justice” does not always happen - God’s justice always happens
  3. Why is abortion so very wrong - we are taking life - the life of the most innocent, and the most vulnerable among us
  4. Here’s one to consider - thus far, all the Democratic candidates for president favor abortion
  5. If our conscience on this issue is dulled - a life or death issue, what does that say about our value of persons?

6. We all have a “choice” - we need to choose life
7. Issues behind the issue of abortion:
  - free and easy sexual relations between our young people - we have large and wrong ideas about sex and freedom in sex - sex and babies go together - I guess we haven’t made that connection
  - even though we have contraception (an freely available) we do not use it
  - kids may not have a shot without parents permission, but they may have abortions without mom and dad???
  - who will look after the vulnerable in our society?

### **III. Justice - Deuteronomy 19:11-13**

1. Deliberate murder
  - A. Premeditated - lie in wait
  - B. But claim it was accidental
- Rea C. Human nature shouts that this will happen
  - cities of refuge can be (and will be) abused - just as the idea of “grace” is abused today
2. In this case
  - A. Show no pity
  - B. Purge from Israel such as this
  - C. Turn over to the avenger of blood
3. The bible’s endorsement of the death penalty does not contradict the sanctity of life
  - Rea -the concept of justice/ judgment “requires” that life be taken seriously, and seriously enough to mete out severe penalties
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. Vigilante-ism is never allowed/ encouraged in scripture
  2. On-demand abortion in the USA shows you how far we have “drifted” from true and right and fair
  3. Is not abortion worse than slavery?
  4. Abortion is driven:
    - by moms who have counseled their girls to get an abortion
    - by the “women’s movement”
    - by irresponsible youth, and parents who are too much into themselves to deal responsibly with their youth. Discuss why “contraception” on every hand has not solved this problem.
    - by pride - we’d rather kill this unborn child than that others know our daughter has been irresponsible with sexual things
    - by “free” thinking about sex
  5. In my opinion our SS lessons (now) soft pedal on the issue of abortion - why is that so?
  6. God will be the “avenger” of murdered innocents - there will be judgment to pay one day