

Catechetical Sermon, April 13th, 2025

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 40 "Do Not Kill"

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 8:20-9:17

Lesson Aim	To understand how the sixth commandment is to be applied today.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 40 and Genesis 8:20-9:17 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>In the post fallen world, after the flood, the common culture is ruled by the Noahic Covenant in Genesis 8:20-9:17. In this passage, where do we find God's law related to the sixth commandment?</p> <p>In Genesis 9:5-6: 'And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. ⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.'"</p> <p>What is another text in the Bible that discusses the application of the sixth commandment?</p> <p>Romans 13:1-7 in which Paul argues that the state has the power of the sword, which may be applied to execute capital punishment.</p> <p>Where is the sixth commandment explicitly stated and what is the correct translation of the commandment?</p> <p>Exodus 20:13 and Deut. 5:17, "Do not kill." This translation is correct while the translation, "Do not murder," is too narrow. Murder is premeditated or intentional but the sixth commandment covers both intentional and unintentional killing. Both stabbing your neighbor <u>and</u> not responsibility guarding your rooftop party so that your neighbor falls and dies, are both sins.</p> <p>Does the sixth commandment just cover outward acts?</p> <p>No, according to the Heidelberg Catechism, we are not to revile, hate, insult, or kill our neighbor in thought, word, or gesture...lay aside all desire for revenge...and God forbids envy, hatred, anger and desire for revenge.</p> <p>What are the positive duties in the sixth commandment?</p> <p>We are to love our neighbors as ourselves, show patience, peace, meekness, mercy, and kindness toward him, and to prevent his hurt as much as possible, also to do good even to our enemies.</p>
Bible Reading	John 15-21 (Reading through the Gospels)