



## DO NOT MURDER

### Introduction:

#### I. THE BIBLICAL STANDARD AS IT IS LAID OUT IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

- A. Exodus 20:13 & Deuteronomy 5:17 - “you shall not murder”

*ratzah*

- B. Numbers 35 - the “cities of refuge”

- C. Genesis 9:5-6 - the *Imago Dei*

“God did not forbid all kinds of killing. In fact, He commanded capital punishment and some war, both of which involve killing. The Hebrew word used here specifies ‘murder’, not just killing. The Israelites were to execute murderers and others under the Mosaic Law. However, God prohibited taking a human life without divine authorization. This included suicide.”

– Thomas Constable

#### II. THE BIBLICAL STANDARD AS IT IS PLAYED OUT IN MODERN SOCIETY

- A. Unauthorized Killing

- murder, homicide, manslaughter
- abortion
- suicide and assisted suicide
- euthanasia

B. Authorized Killing

- self-defense
  
- capital punishment
  
- criminal deterrence
  
- just war

**III. THE BIBLICAL STANDARD AS IT IS RATCHETED-UP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

A. Matthew 5:21-22 (c.f. Lev. 19:16-18)

B. Mark 7:20-23

C. I John 3:5 (c.f. Jas. 2:10-11 & 3:9-17)

**Conclusion:**

**Food for Thought:**

- 1) What gives human life its intrinsic worth?
- 2) How does the Bible distinguish between justifiable and unjustifiable killing?
- 3) What is the meaning of "the sanctity of life"?
- 4) What evidence do you see for the application of this commandment beyond the *taking* of life (e.g. creating conditions, allowing habits, or participation in activities that endanger life)?