



#3

KILLING

Genesis 9:5-7

1.17.16

- To kill or not to kill? that is the question. At least the question we face today as we continue looking at LIFE. We're asking *WHY* does it matter how we live? *HOW* should we live? How can we get the power to do it?

1. WHY DOES IT MATTER IF WE KILL SOMEONE?

- The recent terrorist attacks in Paris leave most of us baffled, mourning, even irate at the mass killing!
- The same was true in San Bernardino, CA a little over a month ago.
- As well as the surfacing as many police brutality videos, showing police officers shooting down perps.

- **Q. But why does it matter? Q.** Why does it matter, say, if Steven Avery did or didn't do it?
- **A.** The view of many, *named the Secular view in philosophical terms*, is that we are all here by chance and we, as the human race, are in fact just lucky animals. This view is terribly inconsistent with human beings having inherent value.

- **EXAMPLE:** One leading teacher of this secular view commented on the horrors of innocent people being killed in the paris attacks, while a few days later saying you should abort your baby if it has down syndrome.

G.K. CHESTERTON, a writer in the earlier part of the 1900's once put it like this:

"As a politician, the secular person will cry out that all war is a waste of life, and then, as a philosopher, admit that all life is a waste of time. The secular person goes first to a political meeting, where he complains the natives are being treated as if they were beasts. Then he goes to a scientific meeting, where he proves that all human beings actually are beasts."

- **This view is, I think, inconsistent,** and it couldn't be further from that of the Bible's.

GENESIS 9:5-7 5 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. 7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it."

- **The idea here is that human life is priceless!** That's why there's no dollar amount or anything of the sort, because what can a man pay to God for a human life? But His own life.

- **Q.** Why does it matter if we kill someone? **A.** It matters because human life is precious. It is precious because we are made in the image of God! (*the only thing, in fact*)

- **Our Declaration of Independence says,** "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

- **But these truths weren't always held to be self-evident.** In fact, the exact opposite was believed until around 2,000 years ago.

- **Atheist French Philosopher Luc Ferry, in his book A Brief History of Thought,** actually points out that before Christianity—before Jesus came to the earth and did what He did—the world was very different, especially the Greeks (which dominated culture/thought at the time). Ferry explains that the very idea that human beings have inherent worth/dignity/value, wasn't majority held until Christianity brought it.

- **C.S. LEWIS:** "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."

2. TO KILL OR NOT TO KILL?

Ecclesiastes 3:1,3 1 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:...
3 “a time to kill, and a time to heal.”

The deep issue we’re dealing with is murder: the unjustified killing of another human. In Exodus 20:13 God is clear that murder is evil. Jesus re-affirms this in Matthew 19, as well as the Apostle Paul in Romans 13.

1. WHAT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT? (CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, ETC.) NOT ALWAYS

ROMANS 13:1-4 1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

2. WHAT ABOUT SOLDIERS OR LAW ENFORCEMENT? NOT ALWAYS

ROMANS 13:1-4 (again)

LUKE 3:14 Soldiers also asked [John the Baptizer], “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

3. WHAT ABOUT SELF-DEFENSE? NOT ALWAYS

DEUTERONOMY 22:22–23 If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. Though what about Jim Elliot?

4. WHAT ABOUT ABORTION? ALWAYS BIBLICALLY

1. Only a human being is called a sinner (Palm 51:5). 2. Isaiah and Jeremiah were called from their mother’s womb (Isaiah & Jeremiah). 3. John the Baptizer was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb (Luke 1:15). 4. God knitted us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13-14). 5. The Bible calls them “children” (Luke 2, Luke 18). 6. God became a baby in His mother’s womb (Matthew & Luke).

SCIENTIFICALLY

• **Robert P. George, Princeton professor, former member of the President’s Council on Bioethics,** “Human embryos are not some other type of animal organism like a dog or a cat. Neither are they part of an organism like a heart, a kidney, or a skin cell. Nor again are they a disorganized aggregate, a mere clump of cells awaiting some magical transformation. Rather, a human embryo is a whole living member of the species, Homo sapiens, in the early stage of his or her natural development.”

RATIONALLY

- **Say you kill a pregnant woman and are found guilty.** You will be charged with *double homicide* because you killed two *PEOPLE* (35 states have this law). ****Aaron Ashley, in California****
- **Let’s name abortion what it truly is:**
Abortion is the intention killing of a human being that’s inside it’s mother’s womb.
- **And friends, Murder is not only wrong because we’re made in the image of God;** it’s wrong because it’s the exact opposite of what you’re built for.

MATTHEW 22:37–39 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Q. What is love? A. Willing self-sacrifice for the ultimate good of another.)

The whole Law is fulfilled in LOVE. And the truth is that we have not done this as we should.

- In fact, though we may have all not actually murdered someone with our hands, we've just as guilty with our hearts, our intentions, our mouths.
- You're created for so much more than NOT murdering; *you're built to love!*

MATTHEW 5:21-22 21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

The same **BLOODGUILT** that is on those who murder is, I dare say, on all of us. We have not loved God as we should; most easily seen in the fact that we have not loved His image bearers as we should. We're guilty! The book is thrown at us and the verdict is in!

3. HOW CAN WE DO WHAT WE SHOULD—LOVE?

- **FIRST:** We need a way to remove the bloodguilt that hangs over us.
- God says in **Genesis 9** that life is priceless; in a sense, the only way He can be just to murderers like us is to require our life as payment.
- This is the hopeless state of the human race, in rebellion to God, without God intervening to rescue us! But Jesus came to give us that bleeding charity we so desperately need.
- **EPHESIANS 1:7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
- **EPHESIANS 2:13** [Christians] have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- In **Genesis 3** Abel's blood is crying out from the ground for Cain the murderer's condemnation. But in **Hebrews 12**, the writer says the blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- **Jesus removes our bloodguilt by spilling his blood in our place on the cross.**
 - Q. *Is your faith in Him and what He's done? If so, you're counted NOT guilty.*
 - IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
- **SECOND:** We need to a deep life-changing motivation to love others.
 1. You're only going to love God and people as you should—not for yourself, not out of fear or duty or obligation—You're only going to love out of joy to the degree that the bloodguilt-freeing, self-sacrificial, unmerited-love of Jesus is your treasure and your focus.
 2. If the love of Jesus is not your treasure and your focus and the foundation from which you want to love others, your desire to love is built on sinking sand.

You see, any kind of murder, with your hands or in your heart, essentially says, "Your life for mine." "I don't care to sacrifice you, because it helps me be where I want to be or feel what I want to feel."

But the gospel! The good news is that Jesus doesn't say "Your life for mine." Jesus says, "My life for yours." "I'll pour out my blood so yours needs not be spilt." "I'll sacrifice myself, so you can have what you need."

If that is your treasure—**IF HE IS YOUR TREASURE AND YOUR FOCUS**, you'll love!