

Murder & Adultery vs. Love



MEMORY VERSE: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." Romans 13:9b-10



Genesis 9:6, 1 John 3:11-12 Do Not Murder

God gave these commandments (law) to His people to follow as they lived with one another. His laws were (and still are) intended to guide us and ultimately bless us, and to point others towards Jesus.

1. The sixth commandment is simple: Do not murder. Read Genesis 9:6. How were humans made? What does this mean about the value of human life?
2. Read 1 John 3:15a. Why do you think Jesus compares hatred to murder? How do you think hatred affects our hearts?
3. Read 1 John 3:11-12. What does verse 11 say is the "message you have heard from the beginning?" Christians, not only are we called to not murder, but we are called to LOVE one another. How can you show love to someone that is hard to love?



Hebrews 13:4 Do Not Commit Adultery

4. Read the definition of adultery. How does God say we should treat marriage? Hebrews 13:4
5. Why do you think marriage is so important? Why do you think being faithful in marriage is so important?
6. Read James 4:4. This verse tells us that not being faithful in our relationship with God is adultery. Why do you think that is? How does it impact our relationship with God?



Romans 13:9-10 The Heart Behind The Law

These commandments were given as actual laws to follow, but when Jesus came He tells us so much more about them and how we are supposed to follow them. Simply following the law misses the point: God's point is that He wants us to be like Him, and therefore to love like He does.

7. Read Romans 13:9-10. How does the author Paul sum up these commandments? What do you think it means that "love is the fulfillment of the law?"
8. Read Matthew 15:19. Where does sin come from? Do you think our hearts can be filled with both sin and love for others? Why or why not?
9. God gave these laws as a way for us to live. How do you think Jesus wants our hearts to be changed In how we view everything: God, others, and living in community?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

The religious leaders in Jesus time (The Pharisees) kept the law perfectly but they didn't have love in their hearts. Jesus makes it clear that the attitude of our heart is just as important as following His commandments. It might seem really easy to not murder and commit adultery, but it is not as easy to have a heart full of love at all times. John 14:9 tells us that we love because God first loves us. May you love others out of the abundant and perfect love that God has for you.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear God,
Thank you for your commandments that are made for me! I believe that Your laws are meant to bring me fullness of life and to point others towards You. Please help me to keep my heart far from sin (even sin like murder and adultery!) and instead filled with love. Thank you for loving me first. I love you. Amen

WALK IN TRUTH



Most of our hearts are VERY far from murder and adultery but all of hearts could love better. What is one way you can steer your heart away from sin and towards loving others instead?

Various References (NLT)

Exodus 20:13-14: “You must not murder.” “You must not commit adultery.”

Murder: the intentional and unlawful taking of a human life. Jesus also compares murder to thoughts/feelings of deep hatred or anger against another person.

Genesis 9:6: “If anyone takes a human life, that person’s life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.”

1 John 3:15a: “Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart.”

1 John 3:11-12: “This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.”

Adultery: a physical relationship with someone other than your spouse; being unfaithful to God and marriage. Jesus tells us that even lusting after is adultery in our heart.

Hebrews 13:4 Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.

James 4:4: “You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.”

Romans 13:9-10: “The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Matthew 15:19: “19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”

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