

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREPARING FOR ETERNITY

RLJ-1547

JOHN S. TORELL

MAY 8, 2016

PART 8: FORFEITING YOUR LIFE 101

THE DEATH PENALTY

God doesn't want you take the life of another human being. **Exodus 20:13**

The Hebrew word for kill in this commandment is "ratsach," which means "to dash in pieces." It is correctly translated into English as "murder" or "put to death." This commandment was given to individuals, but also applies to a nation as well.

God established the death penalty for any person or animal which killed a human being some 1,677 years after Adam was created when He issued the death penalty law to Noah. **Genesis 9:5-6**

950 years later God expanded upon the law of capital punishment when He provided the civil law to Moses, which was to govern the nation of Israel as they moved from Egypt to the Promised Land.

1. There was a death sentence upon anyone who murdered another person.
2. If there was a fight and a person had to defend himself, he would be allowed to flee into a city of refuge.
3. There was a death penalty for pre-meditated murder.
4. If a son or a daughter killed a parent, they forfeited their life.
5. There was a death sentence upon slave traders.

In the nations around Israel, people were put to death for different crimes that did not involve a death of a person. God set a higher standard and the punishment for each crime or accident. **Exodus 21:12-36**

NO VIGILANTISM

An individual does not have the right to execute justice; it is to be carried out through a court of law. **Numbers 35:29-34**

God does not want a lawless society. **Romans 13:1-7**

DEFENDING YOURSELF

Do you have the right to defend yourself? When Abraham heard that his nephew had been taken captive by a band of marauders, he did not lament and accept the fate of Lot. Abraham had his own private army of 318 men and attacked the marauders. Abraham did not spare their lives but killed them all. **Genesis 14:11-16**

David was the leader of a group of men who rebelled against King Saul. They settled in a small town in southern Israel. When David came back with his men, Ziklag had been burned and their wives and children were carried away. David was in great despair and the Lord told him to pursue the band of men who had taken their wives and children.



David and his men killed them all with the exception of 400 men who fled on camels.
1 Samuel 30:1-20

ENLARGING THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Jesus enlarged the sixth commandment but did not abolish the death sentence. He stated that it wasn't enough to not commit murder and raised the bar by saying that unprovoked anger is not acceptable and that a Christian should not call another Christian worthless. **Matthew 5:21-26**

There is no place in the Bible where it says that you must submit to a person who is trying to murder you. If your home is invaded or you and your family members are threatened, you have the spiritual and legal right to defend yourself and kill the intruder.

What about turning the other cheek? Jesus was not referring to someone hitting your face but the custom of legally challenging a person. Smiting someone on the cheek was an insult and it challenged a person to defend himself in court against an accusation. This is why Jesus stated that if the court rules against you, give your adversary more than he was asking. It had nothing to do with physical violence. **Luke 6:27-30**

THE TONGUE IS A DEADLY WEAPON

You commit spiritual murder if you lie, defame or slander a person. You are essentially spiritually killing a person by destroying his reputation. **Proverbs 6:16-19**

Murder, war and destruction are created by the tongue. **James 3:1-10**

The tongue speaks that which is in the heart (soul). **Matthew 15:10-20**

Slander, backbiting and gossip bring death to a person. **Romans 1:28-32**

The only remedy is repentance. **1 John 1:4-10**

Do you plan to start and finish your classes?