**Sixth Commandment**

Ex 20:13 “You shall not kill or murder.” Depending on translation.

Gen 1:26, 27; Gen 5:1; Jas 3:9

Gen 9:5, 6. Life for life...because human beings are different...made in God’s image...so that murder is more than killing.

Ex 21:22-25 Lex Taliones Eye for eye principle Lev 19:18 Deut 32:35; Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30 Vengeance Mt 5:21ff Jesus comments on the Sixth Commandment Rom 13. State’s power of the sword

1 Pet 2:13ff

ECO Essential Tenets

“Eradicate a spirit of anger, resentment, callousness, violence, or bitterness and instead cultivate a spirit of gentleness, kindness, peace, and love; recognize and honor the image of God in every human being from conception to natural death.”

Heidelberg Catechism

“What does God require in the sixth commandment? That I am not to abuse, hate, injure, or kill my neighbor, either with thought, nor by word, or by gesture, much less by deed, whether by myself or through another, but to lay aside all desire for revenge; and that I do not harm myself or willfully expose myself to danger. This is why the authorities are armed with the means to prevent murder.”

“But does this commandment speak only of killing? In forbidding murder God means to teach us that he abhors the root of murder, which is envy, hatred, anger, and desire for revenge, and that he regards all these as hidden murder.”

“Is it enough, then, if we do not kill our neighbor in any of these ways? No; for when God condemns envy, hatred, and anger, he requires us to love our neighbor as ourselves, to show patience, peace, gentleness, mercy, and friendliness toward him, to prevent injury to him as much as we can, also to do good to our enemies.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism

“Which is the Sixth Commandment? The Sixth Commandment is, ‘Thou shalt not kill.”

“What is required in the Sixth Commandment? The Sixth Commandment requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.”

“What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment? The Sixth Commandment forbids the taking away of our life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tends thereunto.”

Pope John Paul II in 1995 wrote Evangelium Vitae or the Gospel of Life opposed the death penalty not because it was illegal but because it was ‘cruel and unnecessary’. Historically, the Roman Catholic Church has seen capital punishment as a form of ‘legal slaying’ and useful as a deterrent but John Paul believed that wickedness could be deterred and society protected without the taking of life...and as a consistent pro-Life affirmer to be against abortion one must also stand against the death penalty.

What is the promise disguised in this command?

What does the command mean in practical terms?

If God’s goal is to form a society on earth as in Heaven...how does this command contribute to that end?