

The School of Biblical Law

Covenant and Law

Lesson Twenty-Eight: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Six, Part 1”

Commandment six states, “Thou shall not kill” (Ex. 20:13); and it answers to the first section of the covenant model, which is transcendence. Man is the head over his boundary and is given the authority to manage and make choices for his world. Commandment six forbids any assault upon the life, thus killing the headship, of another man.

Commandments 1-5 (Love God)	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10 (Love thy neighbor)
No other gods	Transcendence	Do not Kill
No graven images	Hierarchy	
Do not take God’s Name in vain	Ethics	
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	
Honor thy Father and Mother	Continuity	

1. All life must be handled by, and only by, the boundary laws that the Creator of all life has destined.

Man may not devalue or autonomously over value the life found in the created order.

The following are several examples of God-designed purposes that mandate a respect for life:

- Ps. 104:11-30: God’s creation provides food and shelter to animals.
- Prov. 6:6-8: God uses animals to give instruction to mankind.
- Matt. 6:28: God clothes the flowers with beauty.
- Ex. 20:10: God requires that man’s service animals rest on the Sabbath.
- Matt. 10:29: God takes notice of a sparrow that falls to the ground.
- Ps. 19:1-4: God communicates eternal truths through His creations.
- Deut. 25:4: Ox may not be muzzled while threshing grain.

2. Man is the capstone of all of God’s creation, and man’s life must be honored for its uniqueness of bearing the image of God.

There are varying opinions as to whether or not man still retains God’s image because of the fall.

- Image retained argument – Fallen man still has the same flesh (intellect, emotions, volition, and other facets of God’s incommunicable attributes) although twisted and marred from the sin condition.
- Image lost argument – Mankind, fashioned and destined to be God’s dwelling, no longer is home for God’s presence and incapable of expressing the divine.
- Although man may not be operating fully as an image bearer, no man may be valued less than that for which his Maker as assessed his potential.

3. As an image bearer, mankind is directed by a two-fold mandate, as found in Genesis 9:6: “Whosoever sheds man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”

Mandate #1: The life of man, which is made in God’s image, may not be assaulted.

Mandate #2: Man, as God’s image bearer, must avenge the shedding of blood.

Although all creation represents God and His eternal truth to some measure or degree, mankind was created as God’s sons and daughters to reflect God’s personhood and His attributes plus was assigned the task of managing the created order. In accomplishing the dominion mandate, individuals are granted protection from the interference of others by commandments six through ten. If one man trespasses against another and breaks one of the five commandments to love his neighbor, mankind is granted authority to deal with the law breaker and administer justice as God’s appointed representative of justice.