

The Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Murder
Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17

The Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q. 106 - But this commandment seems only to speak of murder?

A. In forbidding murder, God teaches us that He abhors the causes thereof, such as envy, hatred, anger, and desire for revenge; and that He accounts all these as murder.

**The Covenant of Works:
How Adam failed**

How humanity failed

**The Covenant of Grace:
How Christ prevailed**

How believers prevail

Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q. 107 – But is it enough that we do not kill any man in a manner mentioned above?

A. No, for when God forbids envy, hatred, and anger, He commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves; to show patience, peace, meekness, mercy, and all kindness towards him, and prevent his hurt as much as in us lies; and that we do good, even to our enemies.

Helpful Quotes

In this commandment are forbidden all bitter and provoking terms, and so also are all wrangling and contentious speeches, and so also is crying and unseemly lifting up of the voice, and so also is railing or scolding, and so also are all reviling and threatening speeches, and so also are all mocking, scoffing, and deriding speeches.

-Edward Fisher, "The Marrow of Modern Divinity", page 303

During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Dutch physicians refused to obey orders by Nazi troops to let the elderly and the terminally ill die. In 2001 Holland became the first country to give legal status to doctors-assisted suicide...It only took one generation to transform a war crime into an act of compassion.

-Kevin DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments*, (Wheaton: Crossway, 2018), 102

Being reconciled with a brother takes precedence even over worship. People who allow hostilities to fester, who don't try to overcome them, have violated the sixth commandment, because lack of reconciliation leads to death.

John M. Frame, "The Doctrine of the Christian Life", (Philipsberg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2008), 689

It is a great breach of the sixth commandment, to slander any one; but to speak evil of and slander the disciples of Christ, merely because they are his disciples, must be highly provoking in the sight of God; and such who are guilty of it (without repentance) will find that Jesus Christ will call them to an account, and punish them for all their ungodly and hard speeches in a lake of fire and brimstone. This shall be their portion to drink.

George Whitefield, *Selected Sermons of George Whitefield* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1999).