

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...ABOUT OUR DUTY TOWARD OUR NEIGHBOR.

Lesson 7



How Does The Bible Sum Up Our Duty Toward Our Fellow Human Beings?

Matthew 22:39 – And the second (great commandment) is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 5:44 - “*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*”

Romans 13:10 – “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.”

Leviticus 19:18 “*Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*”

Romans 12:19-21 – “*Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*”

This teaches us...

1. God wants us to love all people, even our enemies.
2. God does not want us to take revenge on others.

Food for thought...

How would we define who an “enemy” would be?

What Does The Fourth Commandment Tell Us To Do?

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve and obey them, and give them love and respect.

Colossians 3:20 - “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”

1 Timothy 5:4 - “But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:7, 17 - “Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you... submit to their authority. They keep watch over you.”

1 Peter 2:13-14 - “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king... or governors.”

Matthew 22:19, 21 - “Show me the coin used for paying the tax... Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Ephesians 6:5 - “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.”

1 Peter 2:18 - “Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.”

Proverbs 13:24 - “He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.”

Romans 13:4-5 - “For he [government] is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.”

Ephesians 6:4 - “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

This teaches us...

1. We should obey all authorities.
2. God placed the authorities over us to discipline us when necessary and preserve peace.

What Does The Fourth Commandment Tell Us Not To Do?

Proverbs 30:17 - “The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.”

Proverbs 29:15 - “The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to itself disgraces his mother.”

2 Timothy 3:2-5 – “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its powers. Have nothing to do with them.”

Romans 13:1-2 – “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

Acts 5:29 – “Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than men!’”

This teaches us...

1. God forbids disobedience toward authorities.
2. God is the highest authority and we must obey Him first.

Point to ponder...

How do we demonstrate obedience in the home? Church? State? Workplace? (For an example of the government, see **Daniel 6**.)

How would God’s word address a “conscientious objector” to a war?

Agree/Disagree: Sometimes God allows government to rule as a punishment.

What Does The Fifth Commandment Forbid?

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

Genesis 9:6 – “Whoever *sheds the blood of man*, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God man was made.” (Capital Punishment)

Matthew 26:52 - “... for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”

Proverbs 23:20 “Do not join those who *drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.*”

Matthew 27:5 – Judas committed suicide in despair. He hanged himself.

Deuteronomy 32:39 - “There is no god besides Me. I put to death and I bring to life.” (We have no right to “play God”: abortion; mercy killing; lynching.)

Romans 12:19 - “Do not take revenge, but leave room for God’s wrath.”

1 John 3:15 – “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in Him.”

Matthew 15:19 – “Out of the overflow of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”

This teaches us...

1. We are not to shorten or end anyone’s life maliciously.
2. We are not even to hate someone in our heart.

Story Application: Wayne came to his pastor troubled about acts he committed in war. As a Christian, how would you offer biblical counsel to Wayne?

What Does The Fifth Commandment Say We Should Do?

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 – *“Be patient with everyone... be kind to each other.”*

Ephesians 4:32 - *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as (equal sign) God in Christ forgave you.”*

Romans 12:20 *“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.”*

1 John 4:7 - *“Let us love one another, for love comes from God.”*

Psalms 31:5 - *“My times are in Your hands.”*

Isaiah 55:6 – *“Seek the LORD while He may be found.”*

2 Corinthians 6:2 – *“Now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”*

Hebrews 9:27 – *“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”*

This teaches us...

1. God wants us to love, help and protect human life.
2. This life is a person’s “time of grace” to come to repentance and faith in Jesus.

Story Application: Friends describe Joe as a super nice guy, the kind that would “do anything for anyone.” But some friends know that’s a problem with Joe. He’s always doing something and doesn’t take time for church. How would you biblically counsel Joe?

What Does The Sixth Commandment Teach About Marriage?

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

Genesis 2:18, 22, 24 – *“It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him... the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man... for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh.”*

Matthew 19:5 - *“...’For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”* (“leave, cleave... one”)

Genesis 1:28 – *“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’”*

Psalms 127:3 – *“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him.”*

1 Corinthians 7:2 – *“Since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”*

1 Corinthians 7:39 – *“A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes...”*

Matthew 22:30 – *“At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage...”*

This teaches us...

1. God instituted marriage in the beginning between a man and a woman.
2. There are three purposes of marriage: **companionship**, **procreation** and **avoiding immortality**.
3. Marriage is an “earthly” institution; marriage is only for this life.

What Does The Sixth Commandment Forbid To Both The Married And Unmarried?

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

Hebrews 13:4 - “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – “Flee from sexual immorality... he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.”

Ephesians 5:3-6 – Paul warns against any kind of impenitent sin... including immorality.

Matthew 5:28 – “Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Malachi 2:16 – “‘I hate divorce,’ says the LORD God.”

Matthew 19:6 – “What God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Romans 1:26-27 & 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – God forbids homosexuality and lesbianism.

This teaches us...

1. God forbids adultery in heart (thought) and deed.
2. God hates divorce and wants life long marriages.
3. God forbids all perversions that deviate from His gift of sexuality.

Under What Circumstances Might A Christian Justify Biblically A Divorce?

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

Matthew 19:9 – “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness (fornication), and marries another woman commits adultery.”

*The above passage is perhaps more clearly translated according to the Greek text: “I tell you, if anyone divorces his wife, except for adultery, and marries another, he is living in adultery.”

1 Corinthians 7:15 – “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart; a brother or sister is not under bondage in such cases.”

Matthew 5:31-32 – “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to commit adultery, and anyone who marries a woman so divorced commits adultery.”

*The above passage can give the WRONG impression. The NIV’s translation isn’t the clearest. Here is a better way to translate this passage’s meaning based on the original Greek text: “It was said: ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a divorce paper,’ but I tell you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the fact that she has been sexually unfaithful, causes her to be looked upon as an adulteress, and whoever marries a divorced woman is looked upon as an adulterer.”

This teaches us...

1. God forbids adultery in heart (thought) and deed.
2. God hates divorce and wants life long marriages.
3. God forbids all perversions that deviate from His gift of sexuality.

Thought to ponder...

Consider Jesus’ comment in **Matthew 19:8**: “Jesus replied, ‘Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.’” What’s Jesus point?

Extra reading: **Ephesians 5:22-28**; **1 Peter 3:1-7**; **1 Corinthians 7** (on sexual relations, inter-racial marriages and divorce)

Lesson 7 Worksheet

The Fourth Commandment

(Read Luther's explanation)

1. Find a passage in the lesson which condemns the disobedience of children Prov. 30:17 and another which praises the obedience of children to their parents Col. 3:20
2. When children are disobedient, what duty does God give parents?
To discipline them. Prov. 13:24
3. Jesus kept every commandment perfectly as our Substitute. Look up Luke 2:51 in the New Testament. How did Jesus keep this commandment as a 12-year-old-boy? He was obedient to his parents. Now look at John 19:25-27. How did He keep it as an adult?
He honored his mother.
4. Find a passage in the lesson which tells us to obey the government God has placed over us: Ro. 13:1, 2 & 1 Pe. 2:13, 14
5. If an authority actually commands us to sin, what must we do?
Not sin, but obey God. Acts 5:29

Lesson 7 Worksheet

The Fifth Commandment

(Read Luther's explanation)

1. Mark these true (T) or false (F):

F The 5th Commandment forbids capital punishment.

F The 5th Commandment forbids killing in self-defense.

T The 5th Commandment forbids “abortion on demand.”

F Suicide is not forbidden by the 5th Commandment.

F Mercy-killing is allowable according to this Commandment.

T Those protecting and saving lives are keeping the 5th Commandment.

T Those who hate another are guilty of murder in God's eyes.

2. Find a passage in the lesson which stresses the positive side of this Commandment, that we help our neighbor: 1 Thess. 5:14, 15 1 Jon. 4:7

Lesson 7 Worksheet

The Sixth Commandment

(Read Luther's explanation)

1. Look up 1 Peter 3:1-6. Is it right to intentionally omit the word "obey" in the marriage ceremony today? No because it's scriptural
In what way should the husband earn the obedient respect of his wife?
See Ephesians 5:24-29. He should love his wife as Christ loved the church
2. Read the passages in the lesson. What are the 3 purposes for marriage?
 - a. Companionship
 - b. Children
 - c. To avoid immorality
3. The Roman Catholic Church has praised the celibate (unmarried) life as holier than married life, forbidding priests and nuns to marry. Many priests and nuns are now rebelling (note that 450 years ago, Luther, a former priest wed Katherine, a former nun.)
Look up 1 Timothy 4:1 & 3 in the Bible. What does this say about forbidding marriages? That everything God has created is good
4. For what 2 reasons, according to God's Word, may a Christian get a divorce? adultery & desertion