



Ten Commandments 3:

Respect for Life

David and Commandments Six and Seven

The Sixth and Seventh Commandments concern the preservation of life and the purity of marriage...

Why would God include a commandment concerning the preservation of life?

Life is a precious gift from God. As the giver of life God reserved for Himself the authority to terminate life. No individual has the right to take away another person's life.

Why would God include a commandment concerning the purity of marriage?

Without diminishing His role as the giver of life, God delegated procreation to them. With the power to reproduce and the capacity to express love through physical means came responsibility for the employment of human sexuality.

Warning Others of Danger (1 Sam. 19:1-3)

We show respect for life by warning others when they are in danger...

1 Sam 19:1-3

1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.

2 So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.

3 "And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."

How did Jonathon demonstrate respect for life?

When Jonathan learned his father intended to kill David, the prince immediately warned his friend.

What do we know about how David came to be known?

As a young boy David had defeated Goliath, the champion warrior of the Philistines, bitter enemies of the Israelites. The power of the Philistines often threatened the existence of Israel. Once more Israel prepared to do battle with this foe, this time across a valley floor. Each day Goliath advanced against the Israelite line and challenged the Israelites to send a defender to determine the outcome of the war. Terrified Israelites refused to accept the summons.

David's older brothers served in the army. While visiting them, David killed Goliath with his slingshot. Immediately thereafter the army of Israel attacked and routed the Philistine army.

What was David's relationship to King Saul?

David had become an officer in Saul's army. Under the capable leadership of David, his troops enjoyed success. His campaigns were far more successful than those of other generals and David became a popular hero. Initially King Saul was grateful. He offered his daughter Merab as a wife to David. However David declined on the basis that he and his family were unworthy of joining the royal family. Saul had another daughter, named Michal, who loved David. He eventually married Michal and so became Saul's son-in-law.

Why did King Saul seek to kill David?

Saul came to fear David. David's popularity and his marriage into the royal family became a perceived danger to Saul's dynasty. Although the threat was not real, Saul took calculated steps to eliminate David as a potential rival. In the ancient world kings customarily used death as the means to remove competition.

What was David's relationship with Jonathan?

Jonathan and David enjoyed a well-established friendship.

As heir to the throne, why didn't Jonathan share his fathers fear of David?

As heir to the throne Jonathan certainly had the most to lose if his father's fears were genuine. Nonetheless the prince's love for David and his respect for life prevented affinity towards the plot.

How did Jonathan help David escape from his father?

He revealed the details of the conspiracy to David. He instructed David to hide in a nearby field. This removed him from danger but kept the two friends in contact with each other.

What should we learn from Jonathan's example?

Parents have an obligation to warn their children of potential dangers.

- Some of these dangers may come from the acts of other individuals but they also may result from the actions and attitudes of the child.

Likewise when we observe friends in danger, we have a responsibility to warn them before they are hurt physically or otherwise.

Why should we warn others if they are about to do something that puts their life in peril?

Respect for life demands that people be warned about any peril to their existence.

Interceding for Those in Danger (1 Sam. 19:4-7)

Demonstrating respect for life includes interceding for those in danger...

1 Sam 19:4-7

4 Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you.

5 "For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"

6 So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed."

7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

v4 – What did Jonathan attempt to do in his conversation with his father?

Instead of taking sides Jonathan sought reconciliation.

Having warned his friend David, Jonathan acted to remove the threat.

How did Jonathan try to talk his dad out of seeking to kill David?

He spoke to his father Saul and assured the jealous king no real danger existed...

- He reminded his father that David's past actions always benefited Saul.
 - David's battles with the Philistines ensured the survival of Israel.
 - David's victories had allowed Saul to rule the nation in security.

v5 – Since David's actions always benefited Saul, what would Saul be doing if he killed David?

If Saul then killed David, he would murder an innocent man.

v6 – How did Jonathan's counsel resonate with Saul?

Saul must have realized that killing David may end up causing more harm to himself since sin always has consequences.

What is the significance of Saul vowing, "As surely as the Lord lives"?

- This shows that Saul recognized the serious nature of his contemplated actions.
- Saul recognized killing David would be a crime against God.

Why would killing David be a sin against God?

Because since it is God who gives life, only God has the authority to take life away.

v7 – What did Jonathan do upon hearing Saul's vow?

Immediately Jonathan went to David and shared the good news.

What did David do upon hearing the news?

David returned home and his status at court was restored.

Was David out of danger from King Saul?

No, 1 Samuel 19:9-24 indicates Saul changed his mind again and attempted once more to take David's life. War with the Philistines again erupted. David led the Israelite army into battle and won a great victory. In the celebration that followed, Saul grabbed a spear and hurled it at David. David fled into the night. His wife Michal used a disguised idol to trick Saul's men into thinking David was asleep in his bed. This deception granted him time to escape. Later the prophet Samuel and the Spirit of God hid David from the king's search parties.

Evading the forces hunting him, David made contact with Jonathan. A puzzled David sought to determine the reason for Saul's anger. He wondered if the outburst came from a sudden rage or an altered attitude. Jonathan volunteered to discover his father's intentions and inform his friend about the scale of the hazard he faced.

Taking Risks for Those in Danger (1 Sam. 20:24-42)

We show respect for life by putting ourselves at risk to protect those in danger...

1 Sam 20:24-42

24 Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast.

25 Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

26 Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean."

27 And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?"

28 So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem.

29 "And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."

30 Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?"

31 "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"

33 Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

35 And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.

36 Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot." As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37 When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"

38 And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!" So Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master.

39 But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.

40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

41 As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.

42 Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

In ancient Israel a new moon was marked by special religious rites, including a feast in the king's home... Why would Saul expect David to participate in this feast?

As a prominent member of Saul's family and an important military figure, David was expected to participate.

v24 – Where was David during the feast?

David stayed in concealment outside Saul's house.

v26 – What did Saul think about why David did not participate on the first day of the feast?

When Saul observed David's chair was vacant, he first concluded his son-in-law had violated some ritual prescription and therefore was ineligible to observe the ceremonial meal.

Why could David be considered unclean?

Such innocent deeds as accidental contact with a dead animal (Lev. 11:38) or a diseased person (Lev. 15:11) would make one ritually unclean.

v27 – What did Saul do when he observed that David was absent the second day of the feast?

Saul inquired about him.

Why do you think Saul referred to David as “the son of Jesse”?

This may have been a verbal slur ridiculing his family background.

v28-29 – How did Jonathan explain David's absence?

Jonathan offered a plausible explanation, that David's family was celebrating a special sacrifice in their hometown. David had requested permission from Jonathan, who had the authority to grant David's request and had done so.

v30 – How did Saul react to Jonathan's explanation of David's absence?

When Saul heard this story, he launched into a vehement denunciation of his son.

- He attributed an odious birthright to him and accused him of treachery.

v31 - What did Saul demand of Jonathan?

Saul ordered his son to summon David so he could be executed.

v33 – How did Saul react when Jonathan questioned the reason for Saul's desire to kill David?

Saul's wrath exploded. He grabbed a nearby spear and hurled it toward his son (but missed)!

What did Saul's act of rage reveal about him?

His action reminds us that people who go into a murderous rage against others fail to show respect for life. This is why Jesus considered anger as bad as murder...

Matt 5:21-22 - "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say

to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Saul's anger nearly destroyed the person he claimed he was protecting.

v34-35 – How did Jonathan respond to his father’s attack on him?

For the remainder of the day Jonathan sorrowfully contemplated these events. The next morning Jonathan went to the field where David was hiding.

v35-39 - Why did Jonathan bring a young boy with him?

Ostensibly, the boy was there to retrieve arrows. However the boy was there to help Jonathan give David a prearranged signal (1 Sam. 20:22) that Saul intended to put David to death. They warned David to go into exile to preserve his life. Jonathan risked his own life but helped preserve the life of an innocent friend.

Sanctity of Human Life and Marriage (Ex. 20:13-14)

We show respect for life by demonstrating we recognize the sanctity of human life and of marriage and by doing nothing to violate that sanctity...

Exod 20:13-14

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

What does the Sixth Commandment prohibit?

The Hebrew verb in Exodus 20:13 means "to murder." It designated both premeditated murder and deaths described in English Common Law as "man slaughter."

Why is “you shall not murder” a better translation than “you shall not kill”?

There is a difference between murder and killing. For example, God has ordained authorities to act for Him in serving justice...

Gen 9:6 - Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man.

Some people believe in legalized abortion as a way of protecting a woman's right to choose. They argue that opposition to abortion leads to discrimination against economically disadvantaged women and girls. Why is this a flawed argument?

The real issue concerns life. In reality both abortion and murder defy legitimate authority, specifically God's sovereignty over His creation...

- According to the Bible no individual is qualified or has a right to determine whether another lives or dies.
- The power to give life and the authority to take life both rest exclusively with God.

What are people doing when they terminate life in an abortion?

They are usurping divine authority! Hence murder, even in the guise of abortion, is in reality rebellion against the sovereignty of God.

Ps 139:13 - For You formed my inward parts; you covered me in my mother's womb.

So does this mean we should bomb abortion clinics?

- No, two wrongs do not make a right.
- God did not call us to fix societies ills... the only way society can change is by God changing individuals.

What is adultery?

Infidelity between married couples.

How is adultery distinguished from fornication which is also called a sin in God's Word.

Fornication is sexual relations outside of marriage. So Adultery is improper sexual relations when marriages are effected and fornication is all other sexual immorality.

Why did God make the Seventh Commandment?

To keep marriages pure.

What is marriage?

According to the biblical model one man and one woman are joined to create an inseparable entity...

Gen 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Why did God establish the institution of marriage?

- As a model of the relationship between Jesus and the church.
- To make it the cornerstone of society, the foundation on which the family is constructed.

Why would God mandate sexual purity?

- Sexual purity conforms to God's design for life.
- Within the boundaries of marriage the sexual union is one of God's most wonderful gifts to humanity.
- Apart from marriage it denigrates God's creation by reducing a person created in the image of God into a commodity for physical gratification.

What happens in a marriage when one partner is unfaithful?

- It destroys what God intends to be the closest human relationship you can have.
- Divorce causes financial hardship and children end up suffering the most.

What happens in society when there is a lot of infidelity in marriages?

- The divorce rate goes up and children are raised in situations that cause them to have emotional problems.
- Children grow up to duplicate the pattern of their parents.
- Sexually transmitted diseases proliferate.
- The crime rate goes up as more emotionally disturbed children and adults are infused into society.

Attitudes that prevent Respect for Life

Showing respect for life includes avoiding attitudes that lead to expressions of contempt for another person or that ignore marriage vows...

Matt 5:21-22 - You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Matt 5:27-28 - You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

How did Jesus expand our understanding of the Sixth and Seventh Commandments in these Sermon on the Mount verses?

He asserted that limiting their application to actual murder and physical adultery does not exhaust the meaning and application of the two Commandments.

What is the fundamental truth that Jesus emphasized in the Sermon on the Mount verse on murder?

Jesus expands the scope of the Sixth Commandment to address the root cause of most murders, human anger.

What else is Matthew 5:22 condemning?

"Raca" seemingly was an Aramaic swear word that probably means "empty-headed." It was an insult to one's intelligence.

What was the council danger mentioned here as a consequence?

The Sanhedrin was the supreme Jewish council in the first century. Its members exerted final authority over religious issues and some civic matters. An accused person could stand trial before this council and sometimes the death penalty followed their verdicts.

Why is calling someone a fool so bad?

- "Fool" was another derogatory term which only serves to stir up strife between people.
- Those who lack the restraints only God can provide which keeps them from causing division between people are probably not saved.

So what is Jesus saying the punishment for insulting others should be?

Jesus warned that such insults injure the one using them. Such grievous hatred actually violates the Sixth Commandment and deserves to be punished with death.

Why is anger so bad from God's standpoint?

- Anger is a crime committed at the seat of an individual's will. Left unchanged such evil can lead one into hell!
- Thoughts are powerful and often lead to action.

What does our society think of the Seventh Commandment?

Modern society presumes the Seventh Commandment is outdated.

- In our society morals often are viewed as subjective or "relative".
- Each person then can decide what is suitable behavior. This sounds good but the Bible calls this sin or lawlessness...
Judg 17:6 - In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

What has been the result of these permissive attitudes?

Sexual cheating has become an everyday reality for many of today's marriages. The media even encourages sexual immorality, society would lead you to believe that giving in to your desires is beneficial.

Are married couples in church immune to adultery?

No, it is as common within the church community as it is among non-Christians. The divorce rate among Christians is just as high as among non-Christians.

Why would sexual immorality and divorce be as common among Christians as non-Christians?

Just because we are saved do not mean we are perfect.

But why wouldn't we see a statistical improvement among Christians because the Holy Spirit indwells believers helping them to be more like Jesus?

- I think there would be if you screened out those who are not born-again, or not sure they are going to heaven or is never AWOL from church or who do not pray and study their Bible every day.
- There are a lot of "cultural Christians" who call themselves Christians but are really not saved (I know because I was one).

What is the root cause of adultery that Jesus exposed in the Sermon on the Mount?

- Jesus revealed that a person's motivation is what produces infidelity.
- Fantasizing about sexual relations outside your marriage is a good way to develop a motivation which will lead you to acting out your imaginations.

What does it mean to lust for something?

- This refers to being excited about something and contains the sense of desire.
- Lust is the strong direct appetite for sexual satisfaction resulting from a false evaluation, specifically that the object of passion is a potential sexual partner.

Why is lust a dangerous thing?

It will lead you outside the will of God.

In regard to the Sixth and Seventh Commandments, what should the attitudes and actions of Christians always demonstrate?

An undivided respect for life.

Concerning the preservation of life, what is the greatest warning you can give others who are in danger of losing theirs?

About the need for eternal life through a relationship with the risen Savior.

What is the first thing people must understand to be saved?

To be saved, a person must first recognize their need to be saved, their sinful condition before God...

Rom 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

What is the penalty of sin?

Death is the penalty of sin, both physical death and spiritual death...

Rom 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death

But what is the good news?

God made a way for our sins to be forgiven...

Rom 5:8 - But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

So what must a person do to be saved?

Receive Jesus into their life by believing and confessing Him as Savior...

Rom 10:9 - that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.