**Q50. Why does God give the sixth commandment: You shall not murder?**

*So we will love others, not having sinful hate or anger towards them.*

1. How has today’s lesson on the 6th commandment changed your perception of what the commandment teaches?
2. If we understand that the 6th commandment is not only targeting physical murder of a human being but also the intents of our hearts towards others, how then are we guilty of violating the 6th commandment?
3. The Heidelberg Catechism says, “I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor—not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds—and I am not to be party to this in others; rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.”
   1. What on this list do you frequently participate in?
   2. How can today’s teaching begin to help you live obediently to the 6th commandment?

1. Read Exodus 21:22-23
   1. If the baby dies, why is the perpetrator put to death?
   2. What does this text teach us about the contemporary view that the fetus is not a life until it is born?
2. Read 1st Samuel 2:6a and 1st Corinthians 6:19-20
   1. God is the one who determines when life starts and when it ends and we as Christians are bought with the high price of Christ’s blood. Given these truths, why can’t we support abortion or euthanasia?
3. Hatred in the heart can eventually lead to physical murder. How can we start to kill the sin that can lead us to physical murder?
4. What parts of God’s moral character does the 6th commandment highlight? Why?
5. The 6th commandment requires that we make efforts to preserve our own life and the lives of others.
   1. How are you doing this?
   2. How are you not doing this?
   3. How can we grow together in this virtue?
6. How can we be an accessory to murder when we lead people astray with false teaching of scripture?
7. The 6th commandment is all about man being a precious being created in the image of God. How do we attack God when we fail to do what this commandment requires?
8. Read Genesis 9:6
   1. Why is capital punishment not a violation of the 6th commandment?
9. Our culture very much defends the right to kill a perpetrator for any reason if your life is in danger. Read Exodus 22:2-3.
   1. How does this change and inform how we should think about this?
10. Read Exodus 21:29
    1. If we fail to restrain something that could lead to the murder of a person, are we held responsible?