

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

DEVOTION

YOU SHALL NOT MURDER. (EXODUS 20:13)

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

Blessed be Your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. “You are the LORD, You alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and You preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships You.” (Nehemiah 9:5–6)

FOR SHARING

1. Life is God’s gift. How does the creation reveal God’s good gift of life?
2. Instead of life, violence and death are often the predominant images—especially in the media! In what ways has violence affected your community? your family? your congregation?
3. It is sinful, Luther notes, to “hurt or harm our neighbor in his body.” List specific ways we might hurt and harm others with our words and actions.
4. “The Son of Man,” Jesus told His disciples, would be “mocked and flogged and crucified” (Matthew 20:18–19). His death is not, however, random or senseless; it is His sacrifice for the sins of the world. How does Jesus’ death bring us life? How does His death take away our fear of death?
5. In what specific ways can we, as God’s redeemed children, affirm life in all settings?

PRAYER

Wake us, O Lord, to human need, To go wherever You would lead. Awake our sense so that we More sensitive to needs may be. Since you’ve redeemed us from despair, You’ve freed us so that we can share; Our neighbors’ problems now we’ll bear. Because You love, we love and care. Amen. (*Joyful Sounds* 109)