Consider Life as Precious

Scripture: Exodus 20:13
(11-01-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

In the Ten Commandments, "murder" is referring to the ending of life that is unlawful and forbidden. The most basic fact is that *God gives life*. None of us choose to be made. God did that. That's what it means that he is the Creator. Human life is God's idea, and we see right away in the Bible that sin is mainly an attack on human life. God's whole design for redemption is to restore life — first there is the spiritual life that begins now and lasts forever, and then also there is physical life, in the resurrection.

God is in the life business, you could say. *It is so that man would image God*. We are not God, but we are a reflection of God. And God made us for that purpose of imaging. We are the display of his majesty. We are his artwork. And *that* is what affords us the wondrous dignity we have as men and women.

How do we observe this command? First negatively: it forbids taking one's own life or another's life. It also forbids anything that injures our own or another's physical well-being. Lack of moderation, overindulgence – even in good things - are killers. Anger and hatred kill. The Lord Jesus said that we can murder with our words and hearts, as well as our hands. Anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment (Matt 5:22). Be peacemakers who seek to resolve conflicts God's way and who love one's enemies. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3:15).

Second positively: this commandment requires us to do all in our power to preserve our own life and the life of others. Take care of one's health and the health of others; get adequate rest to prevent physical and emotional breakdown. Get rid of sinful habits that harms us physically. Love God by caring for His precious gift of life that He has given, including unborn babies. Love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What is the bottom line with the sin of 'murder'?

2. What are the consequences we see today in disobeying the sixth commandment?

3. What's the most urgent aspect of the sixth commandment that you need to work on?