

# **The Ten Commandments**

## **“Thou Shall Not Murder”**

March 18, 2007

# Tough Love vs. Spanking

## A Psychological Conundrum

Most of America 's populace think it improper to spank children, so I have tried other methods to control my kids when they have one of "those moments."

One that I found effective for me is to just take the child for a car ride and talk!

They usually calm down and stop misbehaving after our car ride together. I've included a photo of one of my sessions with my son, in case you would like to use the technique....

# Tough Love vs. Spanking A Psychological Conundrum



# 10 Commandments

## Exodus 20 / Deuteronomy 5

1. You shall have no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God
4. Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false testimony
10. You shall not covet

# Passages

- Gen 1:26-29
- Gen 9:4-6
- Psalm 139:15-16
- Matt 5:21-22
- I John 3:11-18
- Matt 5:38-48
- Exodus 21:12-28
- Deut 22:8
- Deut 19:5-7

# Respect for Life

- Created and valued in the image of God
  - Gen 1:26-29
  - Gen 9:4-6
- Reverence for Life
  - Psalm 139:15-16

# Attitude of the Heart

- Old Testament – Avenging Life for a Life
- The Heart of the Murder
  - Matt 5:21-22 Anger - Murder
  - I John 3:11-18 Love for one another
- Attitudes of the Heart
  - Matt 5:38-48 Turn the other cheek
- Is Human Life the goal in an of itself? No
  - If so then we protect our lives at all costs.
- Our Goal: Glorify God through which we serve Him and love our Neighbor.

# Thou Shall Not Murder

## “No Unlawful Killing”

- “Murder” - Word from the Torah is “Ratsah” whose root is a criminal act of murder.
  1. Murder – To Kill another person intentionally and with premeditation. Exodus 21:12-28
  2. Voluntary Manslaughter - To Kill another person intentionally and without premeditation. I.e. in a fit of rage.
  3. Involuntary Manslaughter - To Kill another person unintentionally and without premeditation. I.e. Automobile incident while being reckless or a crime of passion. Deut 22:8
  4. No culpability- Deut 19:5-7 Unintentional accident without recklessness or fault.

# Perspective Summary

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment is speaking about:
  - Thou shall not murder – the Law
  - Respect for Human Life
  - Valued because created in God's image
  - Killing that does not service society but rather violates society.
  - Is not self-serving but selfless.
  - Requires self examination - motives.
  - Life is not the end all objective
  - Is not selfish but based on giving God glory.
  - Negative barometer is anger or hatred.
  - Positive barometer is loving your neighbor

# Application Topics

- Discussion
  - Euthanasia
  - Suicide
  - Abortion
  - War
- There is grace
- Perspective if dealing with one of these areas.

# Euthanasia

- Is the practice of terminating the life of a person or animal in a painless or minimally painful way in order to stop suffering or other undesired conditions in life.
- Complex Medical Environment
- Terminating life vs. terminating treatment.

# Euthanasia

Voluntary euthanasia: When the person who is killed has requested to be killed.

Non-voluntary: When the person who is killed made no request and gave no consent.

Involuntary euthanasia: When the person who is killed made an expressed wish to the contrary.

Assisted suicide: Someone provides an individual with the information, guidance, and means to take his or her own life with the intention that they will be used for this purpose. When it is a doctor who helps another person to kill themselves it is called "physician assisted suicide."

Euthanasia By Action: Intentionally causing a person's death by performing an action such as by giving a lethal injection.

Euthanasia By Omission: Intentionally causing death by not providing necessary and ordinary (usual and customary) care or food and water.

# Euthanasia

- **Physician assisted dying** is where doctors provide a prescription for a terminally ill patient to hasten their death. This is seen as morally distinct from euthanasia because the physician does not cause the patient's death but gives the patient choice of the time and circumstances of his or her own death. Physician assisted dying is the terminology used by the state of Oregon to describe the action of its Death With Dignity law. Possibly the most famous physician related to euthanasia is Dr. Jack Kevorkian. He was imprisoned in March of 1999. He was paroled in 2006 because he is near death with Hepatitis C.
- **Voluntary** euthanasia occurs with the fully informed request of a decisionally-competent adult patient or that of their surrogate (proxy). **This should not be confused with death after treatment is stopped on the instructions of the patient himself, either directly or through a do not resuscitate (DNR) order.** Enforcing a DNR order has never been considered assisted suicide or suicide of any kind, at least in the eyes of the law. Patients with healthy minds have always had the right to refuse treatment; this could be defined as a happy death.
- **Nonvoluntary** euthanasia occurs without the fully informed consent and fully informed request of a decisionally-competent adult patient or that of their surrogate (proxy). An example of this might be if a "patient" has decisional capacity but is not told they will be euthanized; or, if a patient is not conscious or lacks decisional-capacity and their surrogate is not told the patient will be euthanized.

# Euthanasia

- **Involuntary** euthanasia occurs over the objection of a patient or their surrogate (proxy). An example of this might be if a patient with decisional capacity (or their surrogate) is told what will happen. The patient (or surrogate) refuses yet the patient is euthanized anyway. This is generally considered murder. If a patient slated for euthanasia changes his or her mind at the last minute, the doctor is categorically required by law to honor that wish. In most countries removing or denying treatment without the clear instructions of the patient is usually seen as murder.
- **Terminal Sedation** is a combination of medically inducing a deep sleep and stopping other treatment, with the exception of medication for symptom control. There is now increasing evidence that the use of sedatives and analgesics as recommended by palliative care physicians, do not shorten life or hasten death. Consequently the use of such drugs by **physicians trained in palliative care can no longer be viewed as euthanasia** or physician assisted suicide as has been claimed, but simply effective symptom control without harming the patient.
- **Animal Euthanasia** is commonly referred to by the euphemism "put down" or "put to sleep".
- **Mercy killing** (Coup de Grace) is a term used for some cases of euthanasia. Typically it refers to euthanasia by someone other than a doctor, such as a parent, who perceives the individual to be suffering. In some cases, the individual cannot consent. In other cases, the individual can consent, but is not asked or refuses. Lastly, in some cases the individual consents, and it may even be the individual who initiates the discussion.

-Wikipedia

# Euthanasia

"... we must be wary of those who are too willing to end the lives of the elderly and the ill. If we ever decide that a poor quality of life justifies ending that life, we have taken a step down a slippery slope that places all of us in danger. There is a difference between allowing nature to take its course and actively assisting death. The call for euthanasia surfaces in our society periodically, as it is doing now under the guise of "death with dignity" or assisted suicide. Euthanasia is a concept, it seems to me, that is in direct conflict with a religious and ethical tradition in which the human race is presented with " a blessing and a curse, life and death," and we are instructed '...therefore, to choose life.'" I believe 'euthanasia' lies outside the commonly held life-centered values of the West and cannot be allowed without incurring great social and personal tragedy. This is not merely an intellectual conundrum. This issue involves actual human beings at risk..."

- C. Everett Koop, M.D.

# Euthanasia

- Lethal injections.
- Terri Schiavo- removal of feeding tube.
- Removal of treatment vs. still must be fed and cared for.
- Removal of Life Support –Pulling the plug
- No Heroic measures – at what point?

# Suicide

- Willful and deliberate ending of ones life.
  - Phil 1:23
  - Eph 5:29
- Six men who took there lives
  - Samson: Judges 16:23-31
  - Saul and his armor bearer: 1 Sam 31:3-5
  - Ahithophel: 2 Sam 17:23
  - Zimri the Isrealite King: 1 kings 16:18-19
  - Judas Iscariot: Matt 27:3-5
- Assisted Suicide vs Murder
  - Abimilech Judges 9:52-55

# Key Points Against Assisting Suicide

- **A request for assisted Suicide is typically a cry for help.** It is in reality a call for counseling, assistance, and positive alternatives as solutions for very real problems.
- **Suicidal Intent is typically transient.** Of those who attempt suicide but are stopped, less than 4 percent go on to kill themselves in the next five years; less than 11 percent will commit suicide over the next 35 years.
- **Terminally Ill patients who desire death are sometimes depressed and depression is treatable in those with terminal illness.** In one study, of the 24 percent of terminally ill patients who desired death, all had clinical depression.
- **Pain is controllable.** Modern medicine has the ability to control pain. A person who seeks to kill him or herself to avoid pain does not need legalized assisted suicide but a doctor better trained in alleviating pain.
- **In the U.S. legalizing "voluntary active euthanasia [assisting suicide] means legalizing nonvoluntary euthanasia.** State courts have ruled time and again that if competent people have a right, the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment requires that *incompetent* people be "given" the same "right."
- **In the Netherlands, legalizing voluntary assisted suicide for those with terminal illness has spread to include nonvoluntary euthanasia for many who have no terminal illnesses.** Half the killings in the Netherlands are now nonvoluntary, and the problems for which death is now the legal "solution" include such things as mental illness, permanent disability, and even simple old age.
- **You don't solve problems by getting rid of the people to whom the problems happen.** The more difficult but humane solution to human suffering is to address the problems.

# Suicide

- **Almost all who commit suicide have mental health problems.**
- Few people, if any, simply sit down and make a cool, rational decision to commit suicide. In fact, studies have indicated that 93-94% of those committing suicide suffer from some identifiable mental disorder[3]. In one such study, conducted by Dr. Eli Robbins of suicides occurring in St. Louis, Missouri, 47% of those committing suicide were diagnosed as suffering from either schizophrenic panic disorders or from affective disorders such as depressive disorders or bipolar disorder. An additional 25% suffered from alcoholism while another 15% had some recognizable but undiagnosed psychiatric disorder. 4% were found to have organic brain syndrome, 2% were schizophrenic, and 1% were drug addicts[4]. The total of those with diagnosable mental disorders was 94%. An independent British study came up with a remarkably similar total figure, finding that 93% of those who commit suicide suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder[5].

National Right to Life

# War

- Thou shall not murder
- Apply the biblical principles of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment
- What do we do with the principles of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment and the fact the we are at war.

# Perspective Summary

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment is speaking about:
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# War

1. Tension between attempting to avoid war as much as possible and also not appeasing foolishly an aggressor to try and maintain peace, God's wisdom and direction is indispensable. God's wisdom is obtained through prayer (2 Samuel 5:17-19).

**2. Those fighting a just war should depend on God's resources, not just their own earthly resources.** The resources of God are far more important than any earthly resources. For instance, God's angels are far mightier than any human soldier and He will send them to help when we fight in a just war (2 Chronicles 32:8; Psalm 3; 4:8; 35:1-7; Isaiah 37:36).

**3. Always keep in mind that earthly wars have spiritual elements.** Paul was inspired to write that our primary battle is not against flesh and blood people but against Satan and his minions and we should fight it as such (Ephesians 6:10-18).

**4. As much as is possible, overcome evil with good.** Even though military force is sometimes needed, mercy and goodness is to be shown to enemies as much as possible (2 Samuel 9:1-8; Psalm 35:11-16; Proverbs 25:21-22; Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:14,20-21).

**5. Don't war vengefully but leave revenge in the hands of God.** A heart of revenge can lead to atrocities in war. Those fighting a just war must release any thought of revenge to the Lord. Who better to dish out justice rightly than the Just One of the universe? (Romans 12:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7).

**6. Don't take pleasure in the demise or pain of your enemy.** Even though the elimination of a ruthless enemy is sought, we should never take pleasure in the pain of another no matter how evil. Taking pleasure in the pain experienced by an enemy displeases God (Proverbs 24:17-18).

# War

- 7. Understand there are those who will refuse peaceful means of reconciliation or problem resolution.** Some refuse diplomacy (Palm 120:6-7).
- 8. Understand there are ruthless and evil entities in the world.** These need to be dealt with for they destroy the peace and victimize the helpless at every turn (Psalm 41:5; 54:3; Ezekiel 36:5-7).
- 9. Those who persist in evil and refuse to live at peace are to be firmly dealt with in the Lord.** We are not to sit back and do nothing or continually appease those who do evil (Psalm 109). We are not to be naive or pacifistic.
- 10. Allow the enemy to undermine and defeat himself if possible.** Dictators and tyrants are often destroyed from within. Wait for this and facilitate it if you can (Psalm 57:6).
- 11. Forgive enemies once they are defeated.** Jesus said, "Forgive them Father for they know not what they do." Stephen said, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." We should treat enemies as God has treated us for we were enemies of God before coming to Christ and He forgave us (Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60; Colossians 1:21-23).
- 12. Fear God more than the enemy.** This will motivate those fighting a just war to fight it according to God's rules and not their own (Matthew 10:28).

# War

- **Just War Theory**
- Clearly, the Christian ideal is total elimination of war and brotherly love among all people. However, in this imperfect world, war may be forced on those who do not desire it. St. Augustine (354 - 430) and St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) are primarily responsible for formulating the theory of the *Just War* which has remained the majority Christian approach to war to this day. There are many variations on the just war theory, but these are the basics:
- There must be a just cause for the war.
  - War must be waged only in response to certain, grave and lasting damage inflicted by an aggressor.
  - The motive for war must be advancement of good or avoidance of evil.
  - The ultimate objective of war must be to bring peace.
  - Revenge, revolt, a desire to harm, dominate, or exploit and similar things are not justification for war.
- Every possible means of peacefully settling the conflict must be exhausted first.
- There must be serious prospects of success; bloodshed without hope of victory cannot be justified.
- The war must be declared by a legitimate authority. Private individuals or groups should seek redress of their rights through their governments, not by acts of war.
- The war must not cause greater evil than the evil to be eliminated.
- Non-combatants (civilians) must not be intentionally harmed.
- Prisoners and conquered peoples must be treated justly.

# Abortion

## ***Defining "Abortion"***

- **The term "abortion" actually refers to any premature expulsion of a human fetus, whether naturally spontaneous, as in a miscarriage, or artificially induced, as in a surgical or chemical abortion. Today, the most common usage of the term "abortion" applies to artificially induced abortion, which is the subject of this pamphlet.**
- **In 1973, the Supreme Court handed down its *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions legalizing abortion in all 50 states during all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason, medical, social, or otherwise.**
- **The vast majority of all abortions performed today are done for social, not medical reasons -- because a woman doesn't feel ready for a baby at the time, because her partner wants her to have an abortion, etc. Approximately 93% of all induced abortions are done for elective, non-medical reasons such as these.**

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# Abortion

- Reasons
  - Elective
  - Rape Incest
  - Medical Necessity to save mother's life or babies life
- Why is medical necessity a different argument?

# Conclusion

- There is grace
- Perspective if dealing with one of these areas.