

sermon  **SNAPSHOTS**

Killing

VS

Murder

fishers
Church of Christ

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*This entire sermon is available
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In the Old Testament, the sixth commandment says, “Thou shalt NOT kill” (Ex.20:13, KJV). However, in the very next chapter, we see that killing is commanded (Ex. 21:12-17). Therefore, unless Moses was contradicting himself, it seems that the Bible DOES sanction SOME killing (capital punishment, for instance). Many suggest that Christians are hypocritical on this issue, because they are “anti-abortion,” yet “pro-death penalty.” Hopefully, we can understand the Biblical rationale behind each one these views. Let us examine this matter more fully, and try to clear up the differences between “Killing” and “Murder”...

Defining some key terms

- ✓ Kill (Exodus 21:12) = “to put to death;” Murder (Exodus 20:13) = “to kill (a human) unlawfully”
- ✓ Note the two critical elements of murder: “a human” and “unlawfully” (that is, God’s law)
- ✓ Therefore: “All murder is killing; but not all killing is murder” (see Ecclesiastes 3:3, “a time to kill”)
- ✓ Illustration: “All cats are animals, but not all animals are cats” (specific vs. generic terms)

Lawful killing: animals

- ✓ They can be hunted and killed for food, clothing and shelter (Genesis 9:1-4; 3:21; Exodus 26:14)
- ✓ If we can’t kill animals, then no meat, leather jackets, belts, shoes, wallets, purses, or Bibles!
- ✓ Though well-intentioned, some are “more righteous than God” about this issue (Job 4:17)
- ✓ This does not condone animal abuse (Deuteronomy 25:4; Proverbs 12:10); nor wastefulness (Proverbs 12:27)

Lawful killing: humans

- ✓ Capital punishment is lawful: trial, evidence, proof of guilt, etc. (Deuteronomy 17:2-6; Acts 25:10-11)
- ✓ Police or military action to punish evildoers (Romans 13:4 -- e.g., Afghanistan after 9/11)
- ✓ Acting in self-defense (Exodus 21:12-14 -- esp.v.13); or accidental killing (Deuteronomy 19:1-7)
- ✓ Some killing is unavoidable in order to protect one’s property (Exodus 22:2-3; Luke 11:21)

Abortion is murder!

- ✓ The baby is a human being (Exodus 21:22-25; Luke 1:36, 57 -- a “son” in and out of womb)
- ✓ The baby is innocent of any crime -- who could be more innocent? (Proverbs 6:16-19)
- ✓ Therefore, there is no legal justification (by God’s law) for abortion whatsoever!
- ✓ Those who would “defend” the heinous practice of abortion must learn two things..

1. Contrary to popular opinion, you can’t do as you please with your own body! (1 Corinthians 6:19)
2. The baby in your womb is NOT “your” body – it has own genes, sex, blood type, etc.

-Lanny Smith

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Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

Elders

Jan Boser

(H) 773-3178 (C) 509-1828

Al Easter

(H) 585-9846 (C) 698-1846

Randy Shouse 570-4908

Lanny Smith 770-8077



Contact Information

10082 East 126th Street

Fishers, IN 46038

(317) 577-3788

Facebook: Fishers Church of Christ

Twitter: @FishersChurch

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