

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS...# 6

### Introduction

The sixth commandment is given to us in Exodus 20:13. It is the first in a series of short, emphatic commands.. "Thou shalt not kill." The mode of expression differs from that of the first five commands. In the earlier group a line of reasoning is attached to the instruction but in the final group no explanations are offered as the Lord speaks. These commands continue the thought governing our relations with others and our point continues to be: a right stand with God and right actions with men. This is the very heart of the law and that is why the law becomes the groundwork for the "Golden Rule" (Matthew 7:12).. "as you would that men would do unto you, even so do ye unto them."

The emphatic nature of this command is such that we would not expect much application to be needed. Yet this is not the case. Men, in order to have their own way, seem to find an endless number of ways to either reinterpret the law or to deny it. What would seem to be an obvious statement of practice becomes a cause for deeper study and understanding.

### The Sixth Command: Its Basic Meaning

What does the command mean when it says: "Thou shalt not kill."? The Hebrew word translated "kill" has in it the thrust of murder. Murder is the concept of premeditated killing: the planned destruction of another's life as a result of personal malice. While the terms defining killing are not totally exclusive in use, the general definitions are fairly reliable and this is undoubtedly the concept in this passage. One is forbidden to maliciously take the life of another for personal or emotive reasons.

Before discussing this farther, let us think for a moment about the