

another was wrong and furthermore any unresolved matter of bitterness with a brother was also wrong. The bitterness might easily climax in a hateful attitude that would lead to a life-taking sin. Therefore the Lord notes that one shall not kill physically, shall not think thoughts of murder, and shall not speak hateful attitudes that may lead to drastic measures. Jesus address the heart and mind in these words. If murder does not begin there it will not show in other places.

The 6th Comman: Some Positive notes

The positive side of this law is to maintain good health with others. An attitude of love and commitment is the positive antidote to concepts of hate and murder. One must seek to keep a relationship with others in which unresolved problems are not allowed to smolder and eventually erupt in hate and death. The approach is to show love, kindness, and forgiveness. These allow us not only to avoid killing but also to love--alive.

A further comment is given by Jesus in Matthew 5:43. We are told to "love our enemies", that is, to desire the blessing of God for them. Likewise we are to "bless those that curse us", not seeking their immediate destruction but rather the enrichment of their lives. When we are shown hate we are instructed to do good and when we are used in a wicked or evil sense we are to pray for our attackers. These are very unnatural reactions, but they are such as promote peace, not death and hate. They show the fullerside of the commandments and doing this is what pleases God.

We sense, of course, that it is often difficult to behave this way. Our natural inclinations are so limited that we will almost always react with hate to hate, violence to violence, death to death. But God who provided the law, also provides the means whereby His will may be honored.