Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

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**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #51B vs. 1-4)

**LAW #10 HC #49**

Brothers and Sisters: ***Our help is in the name of the Lord … Doesn’t forsake wks of His hands***  Grace be yours in abundance, with Mercy and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Let us respond to God’s call to worship Him **Song #317 “Crown Him with many Crowns”**

***We will profess our faith using the Apostles Creed***

***{please be seated} – Continue to read Heidelberg Catechism LD#40***

***Scripture Reading: Numbers 35:9-29***

 **Song of continued worship and Praise #119: 33-40 “Teach me, O Lord, your way of truth”**

Congregational Prayer.

**Let’s now cont. To worship as we bring to the Lord His Tithes and our Freewill offerings:** ***As the Deacons come ...***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: Psalm #62 “My Soul finds rest in God alone” *Vs.1-3 +5***

***Sermon Text: Deut. 5:17 + Matthew 5:17-24 Sermon Title: “****Be Truly Pro-Life”*

***Let us now sing a* song of Response *–* Psalm #94 “Almighty Lord God” *Vs.1-4 +9***

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

***Doxology*: #117**

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# Evening Sermon: “Be Truly Pro-Life” LAW #10 HC #49

Text: Deuteronomy 5:17 + Matthew 5:17-24 Reading: LD40 + Numbers 35:9-29 (intro regarding cities of refuge)

*Introduction: Parents, Have you ever heard these words?*

**“Fine, have it your way, I don’t like you anymore” OR “ I am not going to play with you anymore…!”**

*How about you Children*, Have ever heard those words before? Or Have you ever said them?! Perhaps, you were playing with someone and you had a disagreement? You wanted to play one way and they wanted to play the other way, and one of you said those mean words And then just walked away!

I hope you know that this kind of reaction is wrong, Right!? That isn’t sharing/loving. And if you say, “I don’t like you anymore” or “I am not going to play with you anymore” **Do you know what are you really saying?** That is basically saying, “I hate you” or “You are dead to me, I will act as if you no longer exist!” ***Those are really hateful things to say, and as we saw in Matthew 5, Jesus teaches us that those things are the same as murder in God’s eyes!*** That is important to note as we come to the 6th commandment tonight: You shall not Murder! – That commandment includes your Words and Mine!

(**Review**) It has been some time since we were last in our LAW series, but will be returning to that series in the evening services while our Brother Nathaniel’s vicariate is on pause. Last time, during the Cadet/GEMS services– we dealt with the first commandment of the second table of the Law. Now, remember, there are two tables to the LAW – the first four commandments tell you how to Love and Obey God, and the remaining 6 commandments explain how to love your neighbor as yourself. The Fifth commandment was the beginning of that description for how you are to love your neighbor. There we learned ***that God graciously promises blessing and long life to those who obey all lawful authority – that promise is especially for children/parents***. Tonight, we turn to the 6th Commandment: **You Shall Not Murder.**

***The 6th Com. teaches 1 central lesson: You shall love your neighbor as yourself by promoting life in everything.***

*We will begin by discussing what this commandment isn’t teaching:* ***God doesn’t forbid all killing*** *(once we have gotten bad ideas out of the way…)*

*And then we will proceed to explain how to promote life in everything under two headings:*

1. **Negatively: Do No Harm to the Glory of God**
2. **Positively: Do Good to the Glory of God**

*I would like us to begin by looking at what this commandment DOESN’T teach:*

# God doesn’t Forbid ALL Killing (REPEAT)

* 1. **We see this because Murder is defined for us in Numbers 35…**

We read in Numbers 35 about the cities of refuge, in case someone killed his neighbor by accident, he had to live there until the High Priest died. Murder, however, is very clearly defined and condemned. *The Biblical case for murder is intent – If a man intended to kill his neighbor – that is murder. And as we see in Numbers 35 this murderous intent doesn’t have to be days or hours in advance.*  **If a in a passion**, a man holding a dangerous rock, iron tool or piece of wood strikes and kills someone that is murder – because he would have known that striking with that object would kill. However, if someone shoves or throws something at someone so that they die – there has to be intent to kill in order for that to be considered murder. *If I threw a tool to a friend while working on a car, and he failed to catch it and it struck him in the head and killed him – since I didn’t intend to kill him – I would be guilty of manslaughter, not murder. And the Biblical law would command that I flee to a city of refuge – which is as close to imprisonment as they got in OT Israel.* So, Murder is defined as killing with the intent to kill (either in the moment or premeditated).

 **BUT What about War?** In war, you are trying to kill the opposing army – is that then murder? **No!**

**Because…**

* 1. **God doesn’t forbid a “Just” or righteous War**

Numbers 35 describes murder for us, and Deuteronomy 19 is another passage which describes much of the same – in fact, I almost chose to use that passage because immediately after dealing with the definition of murder – in Deuteronomy 20, ***God commands the Israelites to kill all of their enemies when fighting the Caananites in the Promised land.*** He legislates from which nations they could spare women and children, and which nations they had to kill completely – so obviously a just war is not included this prohibition of murder – **I WILL NOT try to define a just war tonight (that is too far off topic) ☺**  ***The other major misunderstanding of this commandment is that it forbids Capital punishment…***

* 1. **God doesn’t forbid Capital Punishment**

In fact, the required punishment for Murder is death! God explains this in ***Genesis 9:6*** *Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.* Murder is an attack on the image of God. Therefore, when one man attacks another, he forfeits his right to live. A murderer HAS NO right to live, and they certainly don’t deserve to live in prison for 50 years; **God says they deserve to die**. So, when we have a chance to vote on it, **Christians should support the death penalty** – as our catechism points out, that is why the government bears *the sword* – to punish and prevent murder!

God knew that this was difficult to understand – which is why He specifically urged the Israelites in Deut.19 not to have pity on a murderer, but to carry out justice according to God’s law. But lest you think I am teaching some sort of extremism, please do not misunderstand me – We cannot carry out capital punishment as individuals/vigilantes. ***IT IS THE CIVIL Government alone which has that right.*** So, we can NOT go kill Abortionists on our own – however, it is not wrong to lobby and vote in support of having the death penalty – you just cannot do it for yourself (or it would be murder)! We could spend a lot more time developing that more fully, but we need to move on to what this commandment actually means… It doesn’t forbid all killing, AND ***we can divide the purpose of the commandment into 2 parts =***

*First: and Second: Positively: Do Good to the Glory of God* ***So, First:***

# Negatively: Do No Harm to God’s Glory (REPEAT)

***Perhaps you are asking:*** *How would I do harm to God’s Glory – what has that got to do with anything?* The reason for capital punishment is that murder is an attack on the image of God –all the sins which fall under this commandment – therefore, are ultimately also attacks on God and His Glory! **So, the negative is Do No Harm to God’s Image/Glory**

***This means that you should Do no Harm to your Neighbor or Yourself:***

But what does it mean to do no harm to my neighbor? *The Heidelberg Catechism is INVALUABLE here!* For in question 105, we have this explanation: I am not to dishonor, hate, injure, or kill my neighbor **BY Thoughts, Words, or Gestures, and MUCH Less by Deeds, whether Personally or through another. RATHER, I am to put away all desire of revenge. Moreover, I am not to HARM or Recklessly Endanger myself.** What a wonderfully comprehensive answer!

And yet, I am sure some of you probably doubt that all of that is included under the 6th commandment. You think***, No, It says Do not Murder, surely it doesn’t include all of what you just mentioned,*** and YET the Catechism has anticipated such a response! And in question/answer 106, we read this: **But does this commandment speak only of killing?** (A.105 already pointed out that it did, but the Cat. Asks again for clarity). ANSWER: By forbidding Murder, God teaches us that He hates **the Root of Murder SUCH AS: Envy, Hatred, Anger, and Desire for Revenge, and that He regards ALL of these as Murder!**

Jesus Himself further explains this in our reading from Matthew 5: Jesus explains that it is the anger and hatred, the intent of wishing the other person dead that is murderous! *Even saying some word of contempt to a brother, saying, “You Jerk, Idiot, you fool…”* ***SUCH*** *is the expression of a murderous heart!* And He says anyone who says such things are in DANGER OF HELL! ***To which we reply:*** WHOAA, Hold on there Jesus, Please wait just one Moment… Are you saying that those of us in this room, who lose our temper every once in a while and yell out things we don’t really mean, are in danger of Hell? HOW CAN THAT BE?! ***The Painful truth is this: a child is known BY HIS Actions, and a tree is known by its fruit… So, if you have an anger problem, then EITHER you are not truly saved, OR, And Listen Carefully, OR You are NOT trusting Christ in some area of your life!*** And in that Way, you are doing Harm to God’s Image & Glory – You must repent of such Anger, Such Envy, Hatred, Bitterness and Revenge. *For those things also harm you****!* A large portion of depression and anxiety in people today come from dwelling on anger and bitterness in their hearts** – Mulling over such things DOES affect you physically and can make you physically ill (***chemicals in brain, actually change as result of your sinful thought patterns!Do it for long enough you might lose control!***)

**HOWEVER*, if you are a believer, you have the blessed promise that if you confess your sin***, and turn from it through faith in Christ, then the power of the Holy Spirit will assist you to put that sin to death! And through Christ you CAN reverse the effects of those murderous thought patterns! **Hope/victory**

*You can learn to put off such evil thoughts and REPLACE them with Positive obedience to God’s command: What we describe Secondly:* ***SAY*** *Obedience to this command is:* ***Negatively stated: Do no harm…***

# Positively: Do Good to the Glory of God (REPEAT)

* 1. ***Most simply: this means you Do Good in preserving your own and your neighbor’s life***

The Heidelberg again hits the nail on the head, for question/answer #107 further explains that we need to do more than just not harm ourselves or our neighbors – It asks: Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbors in any such way? ***No, When God condemns envy, hatred and anger, He commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves… to show Patience, Peace, Gentleness, Mercy, and Friendliness toward him, to Protect him from harm as much as we can, and to Do Good EVEN to our Enemies!*** We are to replace Envy, Hatred and Anger with these positive actions of Love.

***What does that Look like?*** It means that when your neighbor (either a family member, a fellow-believer or an outright pagan) when they sin against you, you are required by God to respond patiently. Not to hide bitterness in your heart, not to grumble in your mind that you have been wronged AGAIN, but to seek peace. If you can cover the sin and forget about it – do so. If you can’t then you need to confront the person and seek reconciliation. Either way, you must respond with a gentle tone, & attitude! *Show mercy to others, even as you have received mercy from God.*

In this way, you reflect the attitude and heart of Christ and the Gospel. For what did Jesus do? When He was reviled and cursed, He didn’t curse back. He was patient & peaceful, Gentle and merciful. He submitted Himself even to the cursed death of the cross, and while hanging on the cross, **He asked God to be merciful to those who were crucifying Him!** He positively did more than not harming others, ALL HIS ACTIONS were taken to promote Life – to promote everlasting life for those who put their faith in Him! *He submitted even to being MURDERED so that murderers such as you & me might go free!*

***What Awesome Grace! What a savior!***

I want to close by pointing out just one more thing….

 Back in the OT, when a man killed another unintentionally, he had to flee to the City of Refuge. He had to live there until the High Priest died, and then He could return home. It would have been a strangely bittersweet notice to hear… The High Priest has died, you may go home – Mourning a Spiritual Leader, and yet rejoicing in the pardon they received! **In that we see a picture of our salvation.** For, Christ, Our GREAT HIGH PRIEST died, *so that we who believe* could receive that same notice of pardon and peace … and yet it goes so much further–  **Because He died**, we who are guilty of intentionally killing so many with our ***thoughts, attitudes & words*** are enabled to return home – **FORGIVEN!** There is hope for Murderers like you and me, His name is Jesus Christ, and He died to set us free. **AMEN.**