

# Thou Shalt Not Kill

“Hey Chaplain, how can I be a good servant of God and be a cop? What about the 10 commandments I hear you talking about? Didn’t you call them the most important signposts on the road of life?”

“In my job I have to be ready to take a life and I’m scared that I will violate the commandment to avoid killing some felon! What do I do? I’m having a really hard time trying to follow God’s laws and then I read this: Thou shalt not kill???”

I answered this by instructing the officer as follows: The Greek language translation, which was used at the time of Christ, was taken from the Hebrew. King James translation brings the message in Exodus 20 verse 13. It reads: “Thou Shalt Not Kill.” But is this reasonable, rational or logical?” Some of God’s favorite humans were his warriors. There was a whole lot of killing going on by these warriors. Look at shepherd David who slew (killed) Goliath, he was the giant who held the whole Israeli army at bay. David found favor in God’s sight when he stepped forward with a slingshot and three small round stones. Everywhere you look in the scriptures you will read of warriors, who killed many people, yet found favor with God and became Israel’s leader and king!

How can we read these commandments and believe they are God-given and see people who breach them become God’s chosen? Isn’t that a conflict to be instructed in his holy word to avoid taking life and then seemingly being rewarded when they break a holy commandment? There has to be rationale that makes this gross sin either pardonable or excused. We know that each of us will be justified in taking the life of a vicious felon who was threatening the life of our child or another loved one. We would not be held responsible if we did take a life out of necessity. Our penal code says killing is excused if justifiable. Justification is based upon avoiding death or serious bodily harm to an innocent person, or by a peace officer in the course and scope of his duty. Should that killer (taker of life) be eternally condemned for killing the felon? The answer is he will not be held liable. It all comes down to translating correctly from the Greek to the English language. The accurate and proper translation is: “Thou Shalt Not Do Murder!” Next question please. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In his service. In his love.

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