INTRODUCTION

• Should our value of life match what we see in the Bible?
• If so, how do we view passages in the Bible where God’s people are commanded to kill without showing pity or mercy, and yet they are commanded to show compassion and mercy to others?
• Does the type of crime make the difference?
• Does the intent of the heart of a criminal make the difference?

Passage | Comments
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10 Commandments – Contradiction or Controversy? | v9. God visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the 3rd & 4th generation. Do we have a contradiction since Ezekiel 18 states each man will answer for his own sins?
• NO! The rest of v9 specifies the iniquity of the fathers follows those descendants who hate God
• Also, Ezek 18:17 tells us God will not visit the father’s iniquity on the children if the children avoid the ways of their fathers
• Generational Curses. If a father is abusive, lazy, an alcoholic, or lecherous, often times the kids for several generations are too – The key to breaking a generational curse is for the kids to willingly seek after God’s ways – Replace bad habits with good habits
• vv14-15. Do we still need to keep the Sabbath day?
• Not like the Jews! We were never slaves in Egypt (v15). Nor has God made a covenant with our nation and land as He did with Israel
• But, like the Jews – we should have a Sabbath day of rest and worship to honor God and receive His general blessings
• v17. ‘Thou shalt not kill’ vs kill with no pity (19:13)
• Can both these statements be true? ……………..YES!
• When is it OK to kill, and it is not murder?
• War, self-defense
• Judicial execution for murder, kidnapping, rape, adultery, and idolatry
• When is it against God’s will to kill a fellow human?
• Personal agenda due to greed, hatred, or anger

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

• The best answer for killing or not to kill is determined from the context of the passage
  • Where Scripture said to kill without showing pity or mercy there was outright wickedness involved (i.e., bestiality, child sacrifice, murder, etc.) – a good society must be protected
  • Where Scripture says to show compassion to the weak (who were not considered wicked), it is again to protect and preserve a good society
• SO, we must know what a good society looks like

NEXT WEEK:
Deuteronomy 1-4. These early chapters re-iterate what was detailed in Numbers 1-33, and culminate in exhortations to observe God's commandments whole-heartedly. Israel’s safety and prosperity depend on their loyalty and obedience to God

Political Thought:
Do people respect the Law of the Land Today?

Capital Punishment. If all 50 states were to abolish capital punishment (16 states have already done so), there is nothing biblically wrong with that stance since God never demanded nations, other than Israel, to institute such a practice – though there would be sociological repercussions for unappeased justice

Consider This: 30 years ago almost all 50 states had capital punishment and there were only 250,000 people in prisons throughout America. TODAY, more states are contemplating eliminating capital punishment and we have more than 2,500,000 people in U.S. prisons