

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1449: What Makes Christians Guilty of Murder?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1449-christians-guilty-of-murder/>

See:



1. How does the Hebrew word *ratsach* distinguish murder from other forms of killing in Scripture? (Exodus 20:13, Numbers 35:30)
2. What is the significance of human beings being made in God's image in the command against murder? What broader implications does this fact have in the way we treat the dignity, vulnerability and worth of others? (Genesis 9:6, Exodus 20:13)
3. Does God contradict Himself in forbidding murder while commanding killing in certain cases? What is the difference between the violence as a result of human anger and God's justice, which operates with the eternal picture rather than the immediate one? (Psalms 94:1-2, Genesis 9:6)
4. How does Jesus take the Old Testament "line in the sand" regarding murder and move it inward into the disciple's heart, using escalating legal imagery to show the increasing seriousness of anger, contempt and disrespect? Explain each example below: (Numbers 35:30)
 - a. Needing to be more righteous than their spiritual leaders: Matthew 5:20
 - b. Anger against a brother or sister: Matthew 5:22, Ephesians 4:26-27
 - c. Calling someone an "empty fellow," or *raca*: Matthew 5:22, James 1:26
 - d. Hating our brother—using words as "sword thrusts": 1 John 3:15,16, Proverbs 12:18
 - e. Calling someone, "Thou fool" or "Rebel": Matthew 5:22, James 3:8-10
5. How does speech (destructive words, sarcasm, insult, slander) function as a form of murder according to the principles Jesus sets down? (Proverbs 12:18, James 1:26, 4:11)
6. What is Jesus' solution at the end of his teaching on murder? What is required of us if we wish to carry the name of "Christian" and truly be "light-bearers"? (Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Peter 4:15-16)
7. How have I allowed my anger, frustration or exasperation toward another remain unresolved? What can I do to address this appropriately before the "sun goes down"? (Matthew 5:22, Ephesians 4:26-27)
8. Do my words build others up and honor their God-given worth, or have I used sarcasm, criticism, contempt or slander to tear them down? What changes can I make so my words are God-honoring? (James 1:26, 3:8-10, 4:11)
9. Is there anyone with whom I need to pursue reconciliation so that my service to God reflects genuine humility and Christian love—rather than just an outward devotion—and so my light can shine clearly before others? What next steps need to be taken? (Matthew 5:23-24, 1 John 3:16)