The Doctrine of Murder

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These studies are designed for believers in Jesus Christ only. If you have exercised faith in Christ, then you are in the right place. If you have not, then you need to heed the words of our Lord, Who said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be have eternal life! For God did not send His Son into the world so that He should judge the world, but so that the world shall be saved through Him. The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son of God." (John 3:16–18). "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through [or, by means of] Me!" (John 14:6).

Every study of the Word of God ought to be preceded by a naming of your sins to God. This restores you to fellowship with God (1John 1:8–10). If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9). If there are people around, you would name these sins silently. If there is no one around, then it does not matter if you name them silently or whether you speak aloud.

Topics		
Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines		

Preface: Most of the doctrine of Murder came from the notes of R. B. Thieme, Jr. and from Maranatha Church.

Prov. 1:11–12 read: If they say [to you], "Come with us; let us lie in wait for blood; let us hide [ourselves] without cause for the innocent. We will devour them alive and whole, like Sheol, [and] like those going to the pit. This is murder that they are talking about; for some people, the ultimate exercise of power over others. "You want to show someone who's boss? You want someone to beg you for their lives? Join up with us. The power of life and death will be in our hands."

The Doctrine of Murder

- 1) Murder is the unlawful taking of a life of another with premeditated malice. The act of criminal murder is not the same as killing in battle or by a legal execution in order to enforce the law.
- 2) The origin of murder: Satan is called the original murderer. What does that mean? By his deception and lies, he will bring eternal death to billions of angels. John 8:44 You are of your father the devil [we inherit the sinful nature of Adam, which is ultimately attributable to Satan].

The Doctrine of Murder

and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (ESV) Satan, as the father of the sin nature, is then the accomplice to every murder; and his leading billions of angels astray will lead to their ultimate destruction as well.

- 3) The first human murder is when Cain murdered Abel. Cain offered the works of his hands to God, and God did not pay any attention to him. Abel offered up a blood sacrifice, which spoke of Jesus Christ on the cross. God honored his sacrifice. Cain was filled with anger and he killed Abel with a sacrificial knife. Gen. 4:5–8 1John 3:12 Jude 10–11 The way of Cain refers to those in reversionism who turn to crime.
- 4) David was guilty of sin and evil when he killed Uriah the Hittite. Although David did not kill Uriah with his own hands, he did order his killing, and his lead commander on the field, Joab, carried our this murder. Nathan mentions this sin specifically.
- 5) All of horrendous sins named as being abhorrent to God, the only overt sin named is murder. Prov. 6:16–19
- 6) The commandment of Ex. 20:13 is You will not murder. Again, this is not the same as killing in battle (Num. 21:1–5 31:1–20) or killing someone who has violated the law (Ex. 21:12, 16, 17) or God killing someone as the ultimate judgment (Num. 14:26–29 16:1–35).
- 7) Not only is capital punishment not a violation of the commandment not to murder, but it is required of a society of laws. Gen. 9:6 Ex. 21:12 Deut. 17:8–13 21:22–23
 - (1) Capital punishment was taught by Jesus Himself. Matt.26:50-54 John.13:10, 11 Lk.22:49, 50; cf. 22:36-38).
 - (2) Capital punishment was taught by Paul as a valid practice (Rom.13:14), and by Peter (1Peter2:13,14).
 - (3) Capital punishment will be a legal reality in the Millennium. Rev.2:27; 12:5; 19:15
- 8) Where guilt is established, capital punishment is the result. This is the responsibility of all governments throughout all dispensations. Gen. 9:6 A rich man cannot buy his way out of this. You cannot take a ransom for the life of a murderer. No bribery is allowed.
- 9) Not all killing is murder; there are 3 primary exceptions:
 - (1) Self-defense. Ex.22:2 Luke22:36
 - (2) Capital punishment. Gen.9:6
 - (3) War.
 - (1) Covert aggression is the basis for declaring war (Num.31:1ff).
 - (2) Total victory (Deut.20:10-18).
 - (3) To use the Faith-Rest technique when entering battle (Deut.20:14).
 - (4) The Lord is known as "a man of war" (Ex.15:3), and as "the Lord of the armies" (1Sam.17:45).
 - (5) One of the books of the Jews was called "the book of the Wars of Yahweh" (Num.21:14).
 - (6) David praised God for giving him the skills to fight in combat (Psa.144:1).
 - (7) The Lord sent the army into battle (2Chr.13:12).
 - (8) He delivered the enemy into Israel's hands (Deut.20:13).
 - (9) The Lord will once again strap on His sword and defeat the nations in the Tribulation (Rev.19:15,16).
 - (10) He will unleash a new weapon upon the forces at Armageddon not approved by the Geneva Convention! (Zech.14:12-15).
- 10) Murder is a crime; it is a sin and it is evil. The murderer ought to be executed with the sword.

The Doctrine of Murder

- This is not the same as warfare or killing the enemy in battle.
- 11) Jer. 4:31 murder as a crime is a signal of degeneracy. When a society begins to degenerate, murder will increase; there will be no thought given to the murder of other human beings.
- 12) Believers are capable of murder. King David is an example of that. 1Peter 4:15
- 13) Murder begins as a mental attitude sin that peculates to the surface and comes out as murder (Mark 7:21 James 4:1–2). When Esau decided to murder Jacob, this began with great mental attitude sins directed toward Jacob (Esau never carried this murder out—Gen. 27:41).
- 14) Heathenism is often characterized by the sin of murder. We see this illustrated in particular by the wars which continue to be fought in the Middle East as well as the constant killing of innocents by Muslims. Rom. 1:28–32 3:15
- 15) Anger is the mental attitude equivalent of murder. Matt. 5:21–22 James 4:1–2

A portion of this doctrine came from R. B. Thieme, Jr.'s 1976 Proverbs series lesson #585_0010 and from **Maranatha Church**, accessed November 13, 2014. Some of these points were taken word-for-word; some were edited.

Chapter Outline

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

Topics

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

The Abbreviated Doctrine of

Chapter Outline

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

Bibliography

Topics

Kukis Homepage

Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines

Doctrines