

BE PRO-LIFE

EXODUS 20:13

You shall not murder.

I want to begin this morning with a poem written by a turkey...

"When I was a young turkey, new to the coop, my big brother Mike took me out on the stoop, then he sat me down, and he spoke real slow, and he told me there was something I had to know. His look and his tone I will always remember, when he told me of the horrors of *Black November*...

"Come about August, now listen to me, each day you'll get six meals instead of just three, and soon you'll be thick, where once you were thin, and you'll grow a big rubbery thing under your chin. And then one morning, when you're warm in your bed, in will burst the farmer's wife, and hack off your head. Then she'll pluck out your feathers so you're bald and pink, and scoop out your insides and leave you lying in the sink. And then comes the worst part," he said not bluffing, "She'll spread your cheeks and pack your rear end with stuffing."

Well, the rest of his words were too grim to repeat, I sat on the stoop like a winged piece of meat. I decided on the spot that to avoid being cooked. I'd have to lay low and remain overlooked. I began a new diet of nuts and granola, high-roughage salads, juice, and diet cola. And as they ate pastries, chocolates and crepes, I stayed in my room doing Jane Fonda tapes. I maintained my weight of two pounds and a half, and tried not to notice when the bigger birds laughed.

But 'twas I who was laughing, under my breath, as they chomped and they chewed, ever closer to death. And sure enough when Black November rolled around, I was the last turkey left in the whole compound. So now I'm a pet in the farmer's wife's lap; I haven't a worry, so I eat and I nap. She held me today, while

sewing and humming, and smiled at me and said, "Christmas is coming...."

Thanksgiving and Christmas are not a turkey's favorite time of year.

I would imagine on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, there are quite a few turkey killers in the crowd this morning. Even if you didn't wield the knife personally the enjoyment you derived from the after-effects made you an accessory. The Bible says, "You shall not murder", and you have taken the life of an innocent turkey...

But here's some good news - the sixth commandment does not apply to turkeys. Rest assured, "You shall not murder" - or "You shall not kill", as the Old King James puts it - has nothing to do with animals. Actually, in Genesis 9 God sanctions the killing of turkeys, cows, deer, hogs, fish, sheep, goats, rabbits, squirrels, rattlesnakes, and in some parts of the world... dogs and cats.

God told Noah, "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you." After the global flood of Noah's day God added meat to man's diet - *and boy am I glad!*

If you want to be a vegetarian that's fine – *but I love a good steak.* And if you choose to be a vegetarian... *don't do so for religious reasons.* God has placed no sanctions on the killing of animals for food. As a matter of fact, I've heard that the word "vegetarian" in Hebrew actually means "*Person who can't hunt*".

Understand the sixth commandment is not a prohibition against all kinds of killing, but against murder – and there's a difference. It's been said, "All murder is killing, but not all killing is murder." There are forms of killing that God condones...

. I've mentioned **slaughtering an animal for food.** This is biblically justified.

Self-defense is another example of killing that's not murder. If

someone breaks into my house with the intent of harming my family I have a responsibility to defend myself and my loved ones. Shooting the perpetrator shows love to my family, and even love for the criminal... I've helped the man avoid committing a serious crime.

Don't misunderstand Jesus' words in the Sermon of the Mount. In Matthew 5:39 He tells us, "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also." Remember 90% of the population is right handed. And Jesus deals specifically with a slap on your right cheek. If I'm going to slap you with my right hand on your right cheek I'll have to do it with the back of my hand. And a backhanded slap is not an attack, but a personal insult.

Jesus is telling us to let words and insults roll off our back. Don't retaliate. But He certainly isn't suggesting we can't defend ourselves from physical assault.

Romans 13:4 tells us this is why government exists – to protect its citizens and to promote justice. He speaks of the police when he says "for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil." A policeman is on the front lines and has to make split-second decisions. He has a tough job. He is God's minister to defend the people.

Another form of killing that's not murder is **capital punishment**. The Law of Moses mentioned nearly 18 crimes to which God assigned the death penalty.

Capital punishment was first instituted by God 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." Here's the basic principle behind the idea of government - if you take a life your life should be taken. And it's the government's job to enforce that penalty.

In America today 64% of people favor the death penalty – *but just 62% view it as a deterrent*. Let me assure you it's a deterrent to the guy who gets executed.

Another form of killing that's not murder is **just warfare**. War is horrible and should be fought only *to avoid greater horrors - and as a last resort*. But there are occasions when war is needed to check the advance of tyrants with evil ambitions.

Ecclesiastes 3:8 tells us, there is "A time of war, and a time of peace."

Phillip Ryken writes, "Christians have long believed that a war is just only if it is waged by a legitimate government - for a worthy cause - with force proportional to the attack - against men who are soldiers, not civilians - and when all other means of resolution have failed." But if those conditions are met we need to fight.

My point is that not all killing is murder and prohibited by this commandment.

Actually the Hebrew word translated "murder" is the word "ratsach" - a word that's never used in a military or legal sense. Other Hebrew words describe the execution of a death sentence, or a soldier killing the enemy in combat, or even a hunter who kills for food. The word "ratsach" is reserved for murder – voluntary or involuntary manslaughter – a killing that results from rage or recklessness.

As a matter of fact, the Old King James rendering of this verse, "You shall not kill" is really incomplete. The better translation is "You shall not murder."

The sixth commandment forbids the premeditated taking of an innocent life. It prohibits us from seeking to harm a person out of anger, or personal revenge, or selfish gain. It invokes a deep respect for human life. It requires us to be pro-life.

Often, when we use the term, "pro-life", it's in the context of unborn life. But God wants us to be *pro-life* in our approach to all human life – unborn, newborn, and well worn. He wants us to be pro-life as we interact with our kids, our friends, our co-workers, our

aging parents and grandparents - even our enemies.

The sixth commandment advocates a deep respect for human life in general.

It's based on the belief that unlike plants and animals – human life was created in God's image. Human life is special and sacred - thus to harm and kill a human being is to launch an attack on God Himself. It's to deface the image of God.

Granted man's sin has clouded God's image, but in every human God's reflection is there nonetheless. Our ability to make choices, and love, and relate spiritually, and sense right from wrong are all traits that resemble our Creator.

Look close enough and you'll find a sticker on every human being... It doesn't say "*Make in China*", or "*Made in America*" – rather it says, "*Made by God*".

John Calvin once wrote, "[Our neighbor bears the image of God: to use him, abuse, or misuse him is to do violence to the person of God who images himself in every human soul.](#)" To see the image of God in every man is to be truly pro-life.

As we've mentioned throughout our study on the Ten Commandments - each of God's Top Ten represents a non-negotiable – a principle where we should not budge. Each commandment is a conviction we need to decide on in advance.

And here's the sixth non-negotiable - each of us should be vigorously and comprehensively pro-life. As Christians when we see another person we're gazing at the image of God. Treat life as sacred. Never harm it unlawfully.

I've mentioned a few things the sixth commandment does not forbid, but what is prohibited by the words, "**You shall not murder**". For starters there's **homicide**.

In the year 2002, in the state of Georgia, 600 people were victims of homicide. Nationwide 16,000 people are murdered annually.

That's one homicide every 30 minutes. There are 2 million Americans alive today who'll one day be murdered.

I thought it was interesting that 1/3 of all homicides are committed by family members - half by acquaintances - and 17% by strangers. In other words, most homicides are caused by "arguments" with people we know, and even love.

Today we live in a culture that glamorizes violence and murder - from gangsta-rap to violent movies and video games. According to the American Psychological Association by the time the average child finishes elementary school he or she will have watched 8000 televised murders and 100,000 acts of on-screen violence.

I read an alarming analysis by a retired military psychologist named David Grossman. He points out that kids who play violent video games are subjected to the same conditioning and desensitization methods that the army uses to train soldiers for warfare, and help them overcome their natural aversion to combat.

Our culture is training kids to be killers... and the Columbine High School tragedy is just one result. A pro-life parent doesn't just oppose abortion, but they monitor the exposure their kids have to violent and worldly influences.

The sixth commandment prohibits homicide, but it also forbids **suicide**. No matter how hopeless life gets it's wrong for a person to destroy his own life.

In the year 2002, America saw 31,000 suicides - nearly twice as many suicides than homicides. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for people ages 15-24.

In case you've had a love one who's taken their own life, let me say that suicide is not the unpardonable sin. When a believer in Jesus becomes so distraught that he or she despairs of life, I'm sure God is willing to have mercy and show pity.

But suicide is a sin nonetheless. Only God has the right to take a life.

This also applies to physician assisted suicide. Terminating treatment is one thing, but terminating life is another. God alone has authority over life and death.

Homicide and suicide are violations of the sixth command – as is **abortion**.

Each year in America there are 16,000 homicides – 31,000 suicides – but there are *900,000 aborticides*. A homicide takes place every 30 minutes. An abortion occurs *every 30 seconds*. Since the legalization of abortion in America 40 years ago – 40 million innocent human beings have been murdered.

If you're traveling overseas the odds of you being killed by terrorists is *1 in 650,000*. If you walk the streets of downtown Baltimore the odds of being killed are *1 in 4000*. But if you're an unborn baby in America you have a *1 in 3.3* chance of being aborted. The womb of an American woman is the most risky place to be.

And don't say abortion is needed to insure that every child will be loved and properly nurtured. Since the legalization of abortion child abuse has risen 400%.

And of course every time abortion is discussed someone brings up cases of rape or incest – or what if the mother's life is in danger? And I believe those are cases that necessitate special consideration, but realize, less than 1% of all the abortions in America involve such circumstances. Let's deal with abortion as a means of birth control; then we can deal compassionately with the other issues.

Hey, in 1999, 50% of all abortions were not the woman's first. Over half the women who terminated the life of their child did so for at least the second time.

Guys, the Bible is clear, human life begins in the mother's womb. Listen to David's prayer in Psalm 139:13, "**For You formed my**

inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” It’s been said, “Many children are unplanned by their parents, but no child is unplanned by God.”

It’s a violation of the sixth commandment to take the life of an unborn child simply because that child poses an inconvenience or burden to the parents.

But to be pro-life involves far more than the conviction that a pre-born child is worthy of protection, and an opportunity at life. Relatively speaking that’s an easier conclusion to draw than to confer the same rights on the boss who’s determined to make you miserable - or the coworker who’s out to take your job - or the neighbor who’s bent on causing you problems – or the competitor who plays dirty.

If I’m truly pro-life I’ll not only respect the life of an innocent baby, but I’ll see in the not-so-innocent adults around me, the image of the God who made them and still loves them. I’ll treat everyone with a God-granted dignity, respect, and love.

Here’s a non-negotiable... **Let’s be pro-life in the fullest sense of the word.**

Turn with me to Matthew 5. Here Jesus challenges us to have a pro-life perspective toward *the post-born*... He says in verse 21, **"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.**

And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger

of the council.

But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny."

The Pharisees of Jesus' day were a self-righteous bunch. They read the sixth commandment, and sat back smugly and proudly - *Their hands had never dripped with innocent blood.* These men were proud they had never murdered anyone!

Likewise, most folks here today have never pulled the trigger on a revolver, or plunged a knife into the chest of another person, or laced a drink with arsenic.

Most of us have never been guilty of murder... *or have we?*

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus confronts us with a startling truth...

In our heart of hearts there lurks the potential for an anger - that given the right set of circumstances - could explode into murder. In most of us that anger stays buried beneath the weight of social restraint – it's pinned by an upbringing that taught us to respect human life – it's restrained by the fear of punishment.

Thankfully, in most people the *seed* never turns into a *deed*. But even though that seed of anger is suppressed, nevertheless that seed is still there!

And here's the point Jesus makes... *the seed and the deed are one.*

Certainly the consequences are different. Nobody may ever know about the *seed* brewing in the heart - whereas the *deed* will get you the electric chair. The seed and deed are different in degree, but not in terms of nature and essence.

At core the core of every human there's not much difference between the law abiding citizen who seethes with anger and hatred, and the outright serial killer.

In other words, there's a little bit of Timothy McVeigh in all of us.

Once, a boy was doing a history report for school. He asked his father, "Dad, how do wars begin?" The father answered, "Well son, take World War 2 for example, it started when Germany invaded Belgium."

About that time the boy's mother entered the room. She interrupted, "Tell him the truth. It began because someone was murdered." The father snapped back, "Are you answering this question or am I?" His wife stomped out of the room, slamming the door behind her. When the awkward silence broke, the little boy said, "Dad, you don't have to tell me any more; now I know!"

Jesus looks past the fruit, and examines the root. He looks at the sin of anger.

When was the last time you fired verbal bullets at your wife or kids? Have you ever assassinated the character of a co-worker? In your mind's eye have you ever run a fellow motorist off the road - or ploughed into him from behind?

Once, a pastor was playing golf. The score was tied when the pastor teed it high, and took a mighty swing... he wiffed... he missed the ball completely.

He swung again, and again he wiffed. He wiffed three times, until he finally hit the ball into the bushes. The pastor was mad. He was livid. He was boiling on the inside... yet he never said a word. Later, one of his golfing buddies made the comment, "Pastor, that was the most profane silence I've ever heard."

Have you ever been guilty of a *profance silence*? Or a *smoldering hatred*? Have you launched a *verbal assault*? Or been guilty of a *cold-blooded put down*?

We're appalled at the gangster who kills the storekeeper for a piddly amount of cash... but in our minds have we knocked off a fellow church member, or a friend for something just as piddly? Is there a smoking gun in the hand of our hearts?

1 John 3:15 warns, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer..."

In Matthew 5:22 Jesus defines the kind of anger He's describing as a "*causeless anger*"... "whoever is angry with his brother without a cause."

Understand, there is a proper anger. You can get angry for the right reason.

In Mark 3, the Pharisees cared more about their traditions than the man's withered hand. Jesus healed him, but first "looked around at them with anger."

Jesus became angry again when He drove out the moneychangers from the Temple. It made Him mad that the priests were making a buck off God.

Paul says to us in Ephesians 4:26, "Be angry and do not sin." Jesus was able to master this balance. He often became angry, but always for the right reasons.

Aristotle once said, "Anyone can become angry, but to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right reason, and in the right way - this is not easy." When we get angry it's usually because we're not getting things our way. Our anger is sparked by a selfish rather than a godly concern.

Or a certain amount of our anger is justified, but we take it too far. Our *reaction* exceeds the *infraction*. This often happens in our dealings with our kids.

Jesus is speaking of anger that exceeds *biblical bounds*. When I think murderous thoughts toward a person God loves I'm not being

pro-life.

In Matthew 5 Jesus mentions three degrees, or levels, of unrighteous anger... First, there's a **suppressed anger**. Second, there's an **explosive anger**. Third, there's a **premeditated anger**. Unrighteous anger begins as an *annoyance* - intensifies into an *explosion* - then turns into an *intentional meanness*.

June 9, 1980 was a steamy, hot night in Miami. On that night, the body of Judy Bucknell was found murdered in her apartment. The murderer stabbed Judy seven times. A few weeks later Judy's former boyfriend was apprehended and charged.

The murder was the result of disagreement that had turned deadly.

Before his arrest, the killer wrote of his anger, and his inability to get it under control. "It starts off as a drip - a small puddle that's easily mopped up so you ignore it. The next time you've got a trickle, and so forth... Until pretty soon you're toting buckets. You're wondering how you let it go so far, and if you can ever control it again. It's the graduality of it that gets you... By the time you realize what's happening it's too late. It's a strange emotion this thing called hatred."

Anger comes in different octane levels – three degrees of intensity.

First there's **suppressed anger**.

Warren Wiersbe defines the word translated "**anger**" as "*a settled anger, malice that's nursed inward*". It's a simmering, smoldering, anger. It sits under the surface and boils. When it raises its ugly head we push it down, but it's always there.

This kind of anger causes us to rehearse the mean things we'd like to say. We plot how we could retaliate. We enjoy playing out the confrontation in our minds.

Frederick Buechner writes "**Of the seven deadly sins anger is... the most fun. To lick your wounds, smack your lips over grievances**

long past, roll your tongue over the prospects of bitter confrontations yet to come... in many ways it's a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself!"

Anger is an acid that harms where it's *stored* more than where it's *poured*.

One man confessed, "When I repress my anger, my stomach keeps score"

A Duke University study showed that suppressed anger produces a death rate of two to five times higher than does high blood pressure, or even smoking...

It's been said, "Hate is a prolonged form of suicide."

Guys, suppressed anger needs to be dealt with, or it leads to...

Explosive anger.

The word "**Raca**" was a slang term in the Aramaic language that Matthew carries over into Greek to retain its *original punch*. "*Raca*" just sounds ugly.

Literally the word means, "*empty-headed*". It was a derogatory term laced with contempt. It's equivalent to "*idiot, nitwit, numbskull, turkey, twit, trip, yo-yo brain*".

It's a type of term used in an angry outburst. It's the word that comes to mind when someone cuts you off in traffic, or when your spouse bounces a check.

It's a word that comes up when you're angry, and you have to fight to choke it back down. It's not a word you plan to use. It just *slips* from the *lips*.

Explosive anger is like a volcano. Anger rumbles on the inside for weeks before the mountaintop finally blows and spews out hot lava. Raca and lava are similar.

It reminds me of the husband who told his marriage counselor "**I lose my temper, but it's all over in a minute.**" But the counselor put it in perspective with his reply, "**And so does the hydrogen bomb.**"

But think of the damage it does."

Jesus says the man who explodes in anger is in danger of the council, or the Sanhedrin. In other words, he's in line for a stiff rebuke. There's a Chinese proverb, "If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape 100 days of sorrow."

And Jesus speaks of one other type of anger, a **premeditated anger**.

In contrast to the word "Raca" the word "fool" implies more than a reactionary rub. It speaks of a deliberate assault. To call a person a "fool" was to intentionally attack that person's character. The Greek word translated "fool" is "moros" - from which we get our word "moron". To call a person a "fool" was to launch a hateful character assassination. It was to engage in premeditated slander. This kind of anger was a preplanned malice. It's born from desire is to make a person pay.

It reminds me of the woman who'd been bitten by a dog. She was told by her doctor she had rabies. The news devastated the lady. She reached in her purse, pulled out a legal pad, and started scribbling. It dawned on the doctor the woman had the wrong idea. He said, "Mam, please, you're not going to die. We can treat rabies with medication. You don't have to write out a will." But the woman answered him, "Oh, this isn't a will. It's a list of the people I want to bite."

Notice Jesus warns that the person who's guilty of this kind of premeditated anger is in danger of hell fire. He doesn't say you'll automatically go to hell, but He does say if preplanned malice lingers in your heart you're in danger of going there.

Earlier I read the first line of 1 John 3:15, but let me finish the verse, "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." Christians will get angry - they'll suppress their anger – and at times explode - but if God's love abides in you, you'll want to respond with love.

Jesus is saying that a person who is intent and determined on hurting someone else has a giant question mark over the legitimacy of their relationship with God.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is telling us that if we really want to be pro-life and keep the sixth commandment it begins *not with our hands, but our heart.*

Here's the challenge we should consider this morning, *how can I adore God and abhor the person who bears His image?* How can my love for Jesus be sincere if I hate the object of His love, and despise those He died to save?

Here's a non-negotiable for my life - I'm going to love the people Jesus loves. I'm going to treat people with dignity, and see them the way Jesus sees them.

Once, a rabbi was walking home from the synagogue. He was feeling pompous and proud of his religious devotion – when suddenly a poor beggar got in his way.

The rabbi went off in a rage, and shouted, "You Raca! How ugly you are. Are all men of your town as ugly as you?" The beggar replied "That I do not know, but go and tell the Maker who created me how ugly is the creature He has made."

Hey, when we learn to see people as God sees them, as special and sacred, we'll become less likely to get angry at them! We'll begin to grow a longer fuse.

Did you hear of the airline pilot who discovered a mole on board his plane?

The animal slipped into the fuselage, and the pilot was afraid he might gnaw through the wires. Of course this would create a dangerous situation. If the mole chewed on the wrong wire it could disable the airplane, and cause it to crash.

The pilot was wondering what to do, when suddenly he remembered that a mole was not designed for high altitudes. A

mole lives his whole life underground. So the pilot turned the plane upwards and started to climb. Higher and higher he went, until finally the mole could no longer stand the extreme altitude, and died.

And here's the moral to the story – the more we take the high road - and rise to God's perspective - the sooner our anger and pride and selfishness will die.

Here's the truth that's difficult for us to admit... There is a murderer in this room today, and he's seated in your section of the sanctuary. Why, he's seated on your row. He might even be seated next to you. Hey, I'll bet he's seated in your seat.

Guys, CSI Heaven has already combed the crime scene for evidence, and ran all the forensic tests, and has made a determination... *the murderer is me.*

Sadly, I'm not always pro-life in my approach to people. Rather than see them as eternal beings made in the image of God - and made for the glory of God - and infinitely loved by God... At times I've seen people as annoyances, interruptions, burdens - even roadblocks to my selfish plans. *I've been pro-me, not pro-life.*

To some degree or another we're all guilty of breaking the sixth commandment.

Let me close with five attitudes that Jesus provides us here in the Sermon on the Mount that will help each of us cultivate a stronger pro-life perspective...

First is the attitude of **submission**.

Verse 23, **"If you bring your gift to the altar"**. Notice, this person is at the altar. He or she spends time there. Their life is surrendered to God. They have a gift for God in their hand. They want to please God - they just need to know how...

The second attitude is **concern**.

"And there remember that your brother has something against

you". At the altar this person recalls he's offended his brother. Obviously, he's thinking about people other than himself. He cares about others. God has put a love in his heart, and he wants to live out that love. Any disputes with other people he wants to clear up.

The third attitude is **humility**.

"Remember that your brother has something against you." Don't remember what your brother did to you. Focus on what you did to your brother. Hey, every squabble takes two to tango. None of us are perfect. Before we can expect the person on the other side of the conflict to admit their sin we need to admit our own. Take responsibility for your own actions. Confess your sin. Seek reconciliation...

The fourth pro-life attitude is **initiative**.

"leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother" You go to the person you've offended. You make the first move. Rather than draw lines in the sand, be willing to make an effort to resolve the dispute. It's been said, **"Take a lesson from the mosquito. She never waits for an opening – she makes one."** Life is too short to spend it harboring a grudge.

Finally, note the attitude of **immediacy**.

"Agree with your adversary quickly." The longer you let your anger smolder the more likely it is flame up. A forest fire starts as a small blaze that could've been easily extinguished if someone had simply acted sooner. Ephesians 4:23 says, **"Do not let the sun go down on your wrath."** *Go to bed angry and you'll sleep with the devil.* Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

Hey, here's a great way to be pro-life...

When it comes to an uncaused anger... *be submissive to God - care about other people - accept responsibility for my own part in the problem - take the initiative - and act quickly to resolve any*

disputes or misunderstandings.

Let me close with a true story of a burly bartender – a rough-necked bouncer.

I was witnessing to this guy, when I told him that Jesus loved him, and there was nothing he'd done God wouldn't forgive. That's when he looked up at me with a tear rolling down his cheek, and asked, "What about murder? Will God forgive me for murder?" And I told him, "Absolutely! In fact, we're all guilty of murder - because it was my sin and your sin that nailed Jesus to the cross." When you think about it... if God forgives sin at all, He has to forgive murder.

That means if you've killed a man in cold blood - or aborted an innocent baby – or paid for the procedure - or assassinated a good man's character – or sliced and diced your own wife with hurtful and hateful words – or crushed your kids with your anger – or shot down a few fellow motorists with a look that would kill – or you've been torturing a friend for years with your unwillingness to forgive and forget...

Hey, there is forgiveness for you. *If you'll forgive others... God will forgive you.*

Guys, it's time we repented of our anger and our coldness. Let's love like Jesus loves. Let's treat the people in our world with the dignity and respect God bestows on all men. Hey, let's all keep the sixth commandment and be fully *pro-life*.