

# Is it Wrong to Kill?

1 Samuel 15:2-3, 9-11

Introduction: It is an age old debate that continues to cause controversy among our brethren. The issue no longer seems to surround the mistranslation found in the King James Version (Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17; Matt. 5:21; Rom. 13:9). It is clearly understood that “Thou shalt not kill,” should have been properly translated to “You shall not murder.” However, despite the proper understanding of these passages, there remains those who cannot grasp the concept of a loving God meaning to kill anyone.

The ramifications on how we answer this question will affect our understanding of others issues like capital punishment, abortion, military service, self-defense and even law enforcement. Is it indeed wrong to kill?

## I. Murder is not the issue.

A. We all understand and affirm that any form of murder is sinful (Rom. 13:8-10).

1. Love does not cause harm. If we have love for our neighbor we will not even consider murder or any other sinful conduct.

2. That is why we understand abortion to be sinful. What mother could murder her own child in her womb except it be a women who does not love her child?

B. Jesus taught that murder is just as bad as unprovoked anger (Matt. 5:21-22). Unprovoked anger is the evidence of an absence of love.

## II. Killing is necessary in a sinful world.

A. God commanded killing in the Old Testament (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14ff).

B. Numerous examples exist in the Old Testament where God required the Israelites to kill and destroy entire nations of people (1 Sam. 15; Zep. 2:5; etc.).

C. God appointed civil government to kill evil doers in the New Testament (Rom. 13:1-4).

1. In other words, there are authorized circumstances when taking another human life is permissible.

2. The “sword” represents capital punishment. Civil government executes wrath upon the evil doer in behalf of God as His ministers.

3. If a Christian acts in concert with civil government and kills another human being in law enforcement or in the military, then he is a minister of God in that capacity.

### III. God cannot sin.

- A. God cannot do anything that is wicked (Deut. 32:4; Job 34:10, 12).
- B. Remember sin is a violation of law (1 John 3:4-9). Law is as God defined it. Therefore, God cannot break His own laws (1 John 1:5; Psa. 33:4; 92:15; 145:17; Heb. 6:17-18; Jas. 1:13).
- C. If killing a human being in all circumstances is sin, then God sinned when he killed Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
- D. However, we know God cannot sin; therefore, killing another human being is not wrong in all cases (Rom. 3:5-6).
- E. Besides, God would never require anyone to sin (Jas. 1:13). Since He has required people to kill, obviously killing is not sinful.

### IV. People cannot be more righteous than God.

- A. Could any person be more pure than God in any aspect of their own life (Job. 4:17)?
- B. We fool ourselves when we rationalize that we are more moral in our conduct than our brother in Christ because we choose not to take another person's life even if we are acting as an arm of the government.
  - 1. What we are really equating is that we are more righteous than God because God has chosen to take human life. But it is not possible for anyone to be more righteous than God.
  - 2. Not taking another human life when authorized by God does not make us righteous at all! In fact, refusing to execute an evil doer as the authorized minister of God would be sin.
    - a. Wasn't Saul authorized by God to take human life (1 Sam. 15:3)?
    - b. Wasn't the children of Israel authorized to wipe out the inhabitants of Canaan (Num. 32:13-15, 23)? What sin? The sin of disobedience for not killing the inhabitants of Cannan!
    - c. Aren't civil servants in our government (Christians or otherwise) authorized to execute evil doers (Rom. 13:1-5)?
- C. What we are really doing is calling good (the execution of an evil doer as God's authorized minister in government) evil if we say that killing an evil doer is wrong (Isa. 5:20).
- D. The God we serve has told us that evil people deserve to die (Rom. 1:32)!

Conclusion: When we think that all killing is wrong we have forgotten the God we serve (Matt. 10:28; Heb. 10:31). If we don't live our lives righteously before God, we will be counted among the evil. Do you want to die in your sins?