

You Shall Not Murder.

Overview

The Commandment, *You shall not murder* has different levels of meaning. Here are some of the things that are meant by murder:

- Murdering or maiming a person's body
- Slandering a person's good name or reputation
 - Character assassination
 - Backstabbing
- Resentment
- Anger, rage (true anger or rage, different from the zeal of love which defends and protects what is good)
- Hatred
- Revenge
- Killing a person's spirit
 - Taking the life of heaven away from a person
 - Hurting his or her faith in God or love of God
 - Turning him or her away from God
- Being rashly angry with God
- Knowingly and willfully hating God

Here are some other things that may also be meant by murder:

- Certain forms of depression
- Passive-aggressiveness
- Unkindness
 - Unkind thoughts, words, or actions
- Criticism
 - Being critical of what a person loves, cares about, feels, thinks, says, or does that is true and good

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Quick Reference

- from -

Secrets of Heaven

Emanuel Swedenborg

[Murder defined:]

1. Murdering [a neighbor's] body¹
 - a. [Killing] a person as to the body,
 - 1) Thus [depriving him or her] of life in the world²
2. To persecute³
3. Slaying your companion in secret⁴
4. Holding the neighbor in hatred⁵
 - a. Being angry with [your] brother rashly⁶
 - b. Saying to [your] brother, "Raca!"⁷
 - c. Saying [to your brother], "You fool!"⁸
5. Taking away spiritual life from any one⁹
 - a. Depriving [the neighbor] of spiritual life¹⁰
 - b. [Causing anyone to perish] as to spiritual life, that is, the life of heaven¹¹
6. Depriving [the neighbor] of the truths and goods which are of faith and charity, thus of spiritual life¹²
 - a. [For example, a person who teaches and who extinguishes the truths of faith in those who are in simple good]¹³
 - 1) [In the Scriptures, such a person is pictured as a possessor of sheep who kills the sheep and does not own him- or herself guilty.]¹⁴
 - b. Extinguishing the truths and goods of the church¹⁵
 - c. Destroying goods and truths¹⁶
 - d. Extinction of the good and truth of faith and charity¹⁷
 - e. [Extinction of] the spiritual and heavenly things in the Lord's kingdom¹⁸
 - f. [Extinction of] the divine things in the Lord¹⁹
7. [Depriving the neighbor] of faith and charity²⁰
 - a. [Causing anyone to perish] as to spiritual life, which is the life of faith and of charity²¹
 - b. Extinguishing faith and charity²²
 - c. Violence done to charity²³
8. [Killing] a person as to the soul; thus [depriving him or her] of life in heaven²⁴
 - a. Murdering [your neighbor's] soul²⁵
 - b. Killing souls that should not die,²⁶
 - 1) [And] keeping souls alive that should not live²⁷
 - c. Taking a gift to kill the soul of innocent blood²⁸
9. [Scripture:]
 - a. [A] brother [delivering up a] brother to death²⁹
 - b. [A] father [delivering up] his children [to death]³⁰
 - c. Children [rising] up against parents and [killing] them³¹

[Qualifier:]

1. [The] evil [of extinguishing goodness and truth can be] done from the immoderate zeal of a person [who is] ignorant of what truth is.³²

[Effects of murder on the person who commits it:]

1. Delivered into tribulation³³
2. Killed³⁴
3. Deprived of spiritual life³⁵
4. [With regard to knowledge:]
 - a. Matters of knowledge [having to do with] truth and good...
 - 1) [Do] not shine with their light.³⁶
 - 2) Are no longer illuminated by the light of heaven.³⁷
 - b. Truth is no longer seen.³⁸
 - c. He who understands truths will nevertheless extinguish them.³⁹
 - d. Every truth of the church will wither.⁴⁰
 - e. Truths and the affections of truth will be consumed.⁴¹
 - f. Destruction of the truths of faith⁴²
5. [With regard to faith:]
 - a. [A person is] without faith.⁴³
 - b. Faith cannot arise.⁴⁴
 - c. Extinction of faith⁴⁵
6. [With regard to goodness:]
 - a. Good is no longer seen.⁴⁶
 - b. Goods and the affections of good will be consumed.⁴⁷
 - c. Profanation of good⁴⁸
 - d. Vastation of good⁴⁹
 - e. Destruction of the goods of faith⁵⁰
7. [With regard to charity:]
 - a. [A person is] without charity.⁵¹
 - b. Charity cannot arise.⁵²
 - c. Extinction of charity⁵³
8. There is no longer faith because there is no charity.⁵⁴
9. [A person] will perish by reason of falsity.⁵⁵
10. [A person] will perish by reason of the evil of falsity.⁵⁶
 - a. The goods of truth will be perverted by the evils of falsity.⁵⁷
11. The truths of good will perish through the doctrines of falsity from evil.⁵⁸
12. [A person] will utterly extinguish innocence.⁵⁹
 - a. [Editor's note: Swedenborg defines innocence as a willingness to be led by the Lord.]
13. [Profanation of the Lord Jehovah]⁶⁰
14. Love of the Lord cannot arise.⁶¹
15. [A person] can no longer be regenerated, [that is, as long as he or she is caught up in the sin of murder].⁶²

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Quick Reference
- from -
The Apocalypse Explained
Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly (literal) sense:⁶³

1. [Destroying] the bodily life of [your] brother⁶⁴

[Broader earthly] sense:⁶⁵

1. To kill [a person's] spirit, that is,...⁶⁶
 - a. To take away spiritual life⁶⁷
 - b. [To take away] the life of heaven⁶⁸
2. [To hate]
 - a. Hatred⁶⁹
 - 1) [Hatred breathes murder.]⁷⁰
 - b. Deadly hatreds⁷¹
 - 1) [These breathe slaughter.]⁷²
3. Hating your neighbor⁷³
 - a. Hatred against [your] neighbor⁷⁴
 - b. Hatred against [your] brother⁷⁵
 - c. [Wishing] to kill⁷⁶
 - d. [The will] to kill⁷⁷
 - e. An endeavor to kill⁷⁸
4. [Being] inflamed with hatred...⁷⁹
 - a. Against all who do not make one with [you]⁸⁰
 - b. Against all who do not favor [your] love⁸¹
 - c. Especially against those who oppose [your] lusts⁸²
5. Hating your brother or neighbor, thus...⁸³
 - a. [Defaming] or [slandering] him or her, thus...⁸⁴
 - 1) [Killing] his reputation⁸⁵
 - 2) [Killing] his honor⁸⁶
 - 3) [Killing] his life (his civic life) among his brethren⁸⁷
 - a) Destroying this life⁸⁸
 - 4) When this is done from [resentment], hatred, or revenge, it is murder.⁸⁹
6. [Scripture:]⁹⁰
 - a. [Being] angry with [your] brother rashly
 - b. [Saying] to [your] brother, "Raca!"
 - c. [Saying], "You fool!"
7. [Resentment], hatred, revenge⁹¹
 - a. [These things...]
 - 1) Breathe murder.⁹²
 - 2) Will [murder].⁹³
 - 3) Are endeavors towards murder.⁹⁴

8. [Revenge]
 - a. Revenge from hatred⁹⁵
 - b. Deadly revenges⁹⁶
 - 1) [These breathe slaughter.]⁹⁷
 - c. Loving revenge⁹⁸
 - d. [Revenge breathes murder.]⁹⁹
9. [Hating] the good of the church and its truth¹⁰⁰

[Spiritual] sense:¹⁰¹

1. [Taking] away from a person the faith and love of God, thus...¹⁰²
 - a. [Taking away] his or her spiritual life.¹⁰³
 - b. This is murder itself.¹⁰⁴
2. [Wishing or willing] to take away a person's spiritual life¹⁰⁵
 - a. [Being] in hatred against him or her if you cannot take it away¹⁰⁶
 - b. [Hating] the faith and love with him or her, thus...¹⁰⁷
 - 1) [Hating] the person him- or herself¹⁰⁸
3. [Killing a person's essence, that is, good and truth]¹⁰⁹
 - a. [Destroying] good and truth¹¹⁰
 - b. [Destroying] the human itself¹¹¹

[The nature] of all who are in hell and who therefore come into hell after death:¹¹²

1. [They are...]
 - a. In hatred against the Lord.¹¹³
 - b. In hatred against heaven.¹¹⁴
 - c. [In] infernal hatred against all who are in good.¹¹⁵
 - 1) [They] attempt to destroy [those who are in good].¹¹⁶
 - 2) This is deadly hatred.¹¹⁷
 - d. Against goods and truths.¹¹⁸
2. Hatred lies concealed in their spirits.¹¹⁹
 - a. This [is so] in equal degree with the evil of their life.¹²⁰
3. Their delight [is the delight] of doing evil.¹²¹
 - a. [This delight comes] from hatred.¹²²
 - b. [It] is a delight in killing.¹²³
 - c. [It] is a fire.¹²⁴
 - 1) It is a fire that burns with the lust for destroying souls.¹²⁵
 - d. [It does not come] from hatred against those whom they attempt to destroy, but from hatred against the Lord Himself.¹²⁶
4. They are eager to kill the human [essence], which is good and truth [and which is from the Lord].¹²⁷
 - a. As they cannot kill the body they wish to kill the spirit, that is,¹²⁸
 - 1) To take away spiritual life.¹²⁹
 - 2) To take away the life of heaven.¹³⁰

[Notes on hatred:]

1. Hatred is...
 - a. Infernal fire.¹³¹
 - 1) Infernal fire is nothing else [than resentment,] hatred, and revenge.¹³²
 - b. The fire of hell.¹³³
 - c. Manifested by anger.¹³⁴

2. [Hatred is conceived of the love of self and of the world.]¹³⁵
 - a. [Hatred lurks within the love of self and of the world whenever they are not rewarded].¹³⁶
 - 1) "The evil of the love of self is...
 - a) Hatred against the neighbor,
 - b) A resulting burning desire for revenge,
 - c) And a delight in cruelty."¹³⁷
3. Hatred is especially with those who are in the love of ruling over all.¹³⁸
 - a. [The root of hatred is the love of ruling over all.]¹³⁹
4. With others it is [resentment].¹⁴⁰

[Qualifiers:]

1. There is a seeming hatred and consequent anger with the good against evil.¹⁴¹
 - a. This is not hatred, but an aversion to evil.¹⁴²
 - b. Neither is it anger but a zeal for good.¹⁴³
 - 1) [A heavenly fire lies concealed within this zeal.]¹⁴⁴
2. The good turn away from evil and are seemingly angry at the neighbor.¹⁴⁵
 - a. This is in order that they may remove the evil.¹⁴⁶
 - b. [In this way] they have regard for the neighbor's good.¹⁴⁷

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- from -

*The Doctrine of Life for the New Jerusalem
from the Ten Commandments*

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly sense:¹⁴⁸

1. To will the murder of a person's body in this world
2. [Resentment] of every kind
3. Hatred of every kind
 - a. To kindle with hatred
4. Revenge of every kind¹⁴⁹
 - a. To burn with revenge
5. To be rashly angry with your brother or neighbor¹⁵⁰
6. To hold him or her as an enemy¹⁵¹

Spiritual sense:¹⁵²

1. To will the murder of a person's soul
2. All methods of killing and destroying people's souls

Heavenly sense:¹⁵³

1. To hate the Lord
2. To burn with anger against Him
3. To desire to blot out His name
4. To will the murder of the Lord

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- from -

True Christianity

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly sense:¹⁵⁴

1. To kill a person
2. To inflict any wound on him or her from which he may die
3. To maim his or her body
4. To inflict any deadly harm on his or her name and reputation

Broader earthly sense:¹⁵⁵

1. [Resentment]
2. Hatred
 - a. To be inflamed with hatred
 - 1) Hatred is murder.
3. Revenge
 - a. To burn with revenge
4. [Notes on resentment, hatred, and revenge:]
 - a. They are passions.
 - b. They are passions that breathe slaughter.
 - c. Murder lies concealed in them like fire in wood under ashes.
 - d. They are murder as it exists in a person's intentions.
 - 1) They are "murder in intention, not in act".¹⁵⁶
 - e. They would break forth into act if the fear of the law or of retaliation and revenge were removed from them,
 - 1) Especially if there is treachery or ferocity in the intention.
 - f. [They are murder as it exists in a person's will, that is,¹⁵⁷
 - 1) They are the will to murder.
 - 2) They are murder in its essence (or "essential" murder).]
 - 3) [Note:] Whatever pertains to the intention pertains also to the will and so essentially to the deed.¹⁵⁸
 - g. Infernal fire is nothing else.
5. To be rashly angry with your brother¹⁵⁹
6. To say "Raca!" to your brother¹⁶⁰
7. To say "You fool!"¹⁶¹

Spiritual sense:¹⁶²

1. All modes of killing and destroying the souls of people, for example...
 - a. Turning people away from God, religion and Divine worship
 - b. Insinuating scandalous thoughts against these
 - c. Inducing persuasions that can cause [aversion to and even abhorrence of them]
2. Destroying souls by falsities

3. Violating and prostituting the sanctities of the church

Heavenly sense:¹⁶³

1. To be rashly angry with the Lord
2. To hate Him
3. To wish to blot out His name
 - a. In this way...
 - 1) To crucify Him
 - 2) To slay Him

The quality of every person's [own] internal, unless reformed by the Lord:

([Note:] This quality is evident from the nature of the devils and satans in hell, as follows:)¹⁶⁴

1. They have it constantly in mind to kill the Lord.
2. They cannot do this, so they are in the endeavor to kill those who are devoted to the Lord.
3. They are not able to do this, so they make every effort to destroy their souls, that is...
 - a. To destroy faith and charity in them.
 - b. [To destroy their "essence".]
 - 1) They are in "essential" hatred and revenge.
4. There are cruelties in their hearts.
 - a. These cruelties sometimes appear like contests with angels and their slaughter and overthrow.
5. They are in wrath and hatred against heaven.
6. They appear in the spiritual world like wild beasts.
 - a. When they see gentle animals they...
 - 1) Rush upon them in fantasy.
 - 2) Strive to tear them in pieces.
7. They appear like dragons standing near women with whom there are little children.
 - a. They endeavor to devour the children.
8. [They hate the Lord.]
 - a. They are in hatred against the Lord.¹⁶⁵
9. [They hate the Lord's New Church.]
 - a. [Editorial note: In the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, "the New Church" does not refer to a church organization, but rather, to all people throughout the world who pattern their lives after genuine truths of religion (see Emanuel Swedenborg, *True Christianity*, paragraph nos. 307-308). These paragraphs are outlined in the *Begin a New Life Sourcebook* under Commandment #4, *Honor Your Father and Your Mother*, the last two subsections, titled, *Heavenly sense* and *Final notes*.]
 - b. They are in "hatred against...His New Church".¹⁶⁶
10. They wish to destroy the Lord's church.

Endnotes

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- ¹ SH 8902:1,14
² SH 8902:17
³ SH 8902:14
⁴ SH 8902:11
⁵ SH 8901, 8902:1
⁶ SH 8902:1, Matt. 5:21-22
⁷ SH 8902:1, Matt. 5:21-22
⁸ SH 8902:1, Matt. 5:21-22
⁹ SH 8901, 8902:1,2,11
¹⁰ SH 8902:1, 8902:12
¹¹ SH 8902:15, 8902:1
¹² SH 8902:13
¹³ SH 8902:7
¹⁴ SH 8902:7, Zech. 11:4-5
¹⁵ SH 8902:14,16
¹⁶ SH 8902:10
¹⁷ SH 8902:15,16
¹⁸ SH 8902:16
¹⁹ SH 8902:16
²⁰ SH 8902:12
²¹ SH 8902:1,15
²² SH 8901, 8902:1,2
²³ SH 8902:15
²⁴ SH 8902:17
²⁵ SH 8902:1
²⁶ SH 8902:11
²⁷ SH 8902:11
²⁸ SH 8902:11
²⁹ SH 8902:13, Mark 13:12
³⁰ SH 8902:13, Mark 13:12
³¹ SH 8902:13, Mark 13:12
³² SH 8902:16
³³ SH 8902:12
³⁴ SH 8902:12
³⁵ SH 8902:9
³⁶ SH 8902:3
³⁷ SH 8902:3
³⁸ SH 8902:4
³⁹ SH 8902:5
⁴⁰ SH 8902:6
⁴¹ SH 8902:6
⁴² SH 8902:9
⁴³ SH 8902:2
⁴⁴ SH 8902:3
⁴⁵ SH 8902:5
⁴⁶ SH 8902:4
⁴⁷ SH 8902:6
⁴⁸ SH 8902:9
⁴⁹ SH 8902:9
⁵⁰ SH 8902:9
⁵¹ SH 8902:2
⁵² SH 8902:3
⁵³ SH 8902:5,14
⁵⁴ SH 8902:6,8
- ⁵⁵ SH 8902:4
⁵⁶ SH 8902:4
⁵⁷ SH 8902:5
⁵⁸ SH 8902:5
⁵⁹ SH 8902:5
⁶⁰ SH 8902:11
⁶¹ SH 8902:3
⁶² SH 8902:3
⁶³ AE 1012:4
⁶⁴ AE 1012:3
⁶⁵ AE 1012:3,4 The "spiritual moral sense" of this commandment is said to be an internal sense which is nearest to the letter of Scripture and which has reference to "moral murder".
⁶⁶ AE 1014:3
⁶⁷ AE 1014:3
⁶⁸ AE 1014:3
⁶⁹ AE 1015:2
⁷⁰ AE 935:2
⁷¹ AE 949:3
⁷² AE 949:3
⁷³ AE 935:2, 1014:3
⁷⁴ AE 1016:2
⁷⁵ AE 1015:3
⁷⁶ AE 1014:3
⁷⁷ AE 1015:2
⁷⁸ AE 1016:3
⁷⁹ AE 1016:2
⁸⁰ AE 1016:2
⁸¹ AE 1016:2
⁸² AE 1016:2
⁸³ AE 1012:3
⁸⁴ AE 1012:3
⁸⁵ AE 1012:3
⁸⁶ AE 1012:3
⁸⁷ AE 1012:3
⁸⁸ AE 1012:3
⁸⁹ AE 1012:3
⁹⁰ AE 1012:3, Matt. 5:21-26
⁹¹ AE 1012:3
⁹² AE 1012:3
⁹³ AE 1012:3
⁹⁴ AE 1012:3
⁹⁵ AE 1015:2
⁹⁶ AE 949:3
⁹⁷ AE 949:3
⁹⁸ AE 935:2
⁹⁹ AE 935:2
¹⁰⁰ AE 1014:3
¹⁰¹ AE 1012:3,4
¹⁰² AE 1012:4
¹⁰³ AE 1012:4
¹⁰⁴ AE 1012:4

¹⁰⁵ AE 1012:4
¹⁰⁶ AE 1012:4
¹⁰⁷ AE 1012:4
¹⁰⁸ AE 1012:4
¹⁰⁹ AE 1013:2
¹¹⁰ AE 1013:2
¹¹¹ AE 1013:2
¹¹² AE 1013:2,3
¹¹³ AE 1013:2,3
¹¹⁴ AE 1013:2,3
¹¹⁵ AE 1013:4
¹¹⁶ AE 1013:4
¹¹⁷ AE 1013:4
¹¹⁸ AE 1013:2,3
¹¹⁹ AE 1013:3
¹²⁰ AE 1013:3
¹²¹ AE 1013:4, 1014:2
¹²² AE 1014:2,3
¹²³ AE 1014:3
¹²⁴ AE 1013:4
¹²⁵ AE 1013:4
¹²⁶ AE 1013:4
¹²⁷ AE 1013:4
¹²⁸ AE 1014:3
¹²⁹ AE 1014:3
¹³⁰ AE 1014:3
¹³¹ AE 1016:2
¹³² Life 67
¹³³ AE 1017
¹³⁴ AE 1016:3
¹³⁵ AE 1016:2
¹³⁶ AE 1017
¹³⁷ SH 4750:5
¹³⁸ AE 1016:3
¹³⁹ AE 1017
¹⁴⁰ AE 1016:3
¹⁴¹ AE 1016:3
¹⁴² AE 1016:3
¹⁴³ AE 1016:3
¹⁴⁴ AE 1016:3
¹⁴⁵ AE 1016:3
¹⁴⁶ AE 1016:3
¹⁴⁷ AE 1016:3
¹⁴⁸ Life 67 unless otherwise noted
¹⁴⁹ Life 72 Note: There are "many more"
kinds of murder other than enmities, hatred
and revenge.
¹⁵⁰ Life 73, Matt. 5:21-22
¹⁵¹ Life 73
¹⁵² Life 67 unless otherwise noted
¹⁵³ Life 67 unless otherwise noted
¹⁵⁴ TC 309 unless otherwise noted
¹⁵⁵ TC 309 unless otherwise noted
¹⁵⁶ TC 309
¹⁵⁷ TC 309, 312
¹⁵⁸ TC 309
¹⁵⁹ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22

¹⁶⁰ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22
¹⁶¹ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22
¹⁶² TC 310 unless otherwise noted
¹⁶³ TC 311 unless otherwise noted
¹⁶⁴ TC 312 unless otherwise noted
¹⁶⁵ TC 312
¹⁶⁶ TC 312