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 (the hateful kind of anger and rage, different from *zeal*, which is an expression of love, and which exists to guard, protect, and defend what is good)
- Hatred
- Revenge
- Killing a person's spirit
 - Taking experiences of heaven away from other people or yourself
 - Hurting people's love of God or faith in God
 - Turning people away from God
- Being rashly angry with God
- Knowingly and willfully hating the Lord

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

- Certain forms of depression
- Passive-aggressiveness
- Unkindness
 - Unkind intentions; unkind thoughts that you entertain, dwell on, and nurture; unkind words; unkind actions
- Criticism
 - Being harshly critical of the good and true things that other people love, care about, feel, think, say, or do

Quick Reference

- from -

Secrets of Heaven

Emanuel Swedenborg

Murder defined:

- 1. Murdering a person's body¹
 - a. Killing a person's body,
 - b. Thus depriving him or her of life in the world²
- 2. Persecution³
- 3. Slaying a companion in secret⁴
- 4. Holding your neighbor in hatred⁵
 - a. [Editorial note: Emanuel Swedenborg suggests that your "neighbor" is the person next door and also people in general. More specifically, your neighbor is any good, noble, or honorable *qualities* that exist in a person and help make them who they are, including yourself.]
 - b. Being angry with your "brother" rashly⁶
 - [Editorial note: Emanuel Swedenborg suggests that a "brother" in Scripture refers to anyone - male or female who is in good. Abstractly, "brother" refers to the goodness itself that is within the individual.]
 - c. Saying to your brother, "Raca!"⁷
 - d. Saying, "You fool!"⁸
- 5. Taking away spiritual life from anyone⁹
 - a. Depriving your neighbor of spiritual life¹⁰
 - b. Causing anyone to perish as to spiritual life, that is, the life of heaven¹¹
- 6. Depriving your neighbor of the truths and goods that belong to faith and goodwill, thus of spiritual life¹²
 - a. For example, people who teach, and who, by means of their teaching, extinguish the truths of faith in those who are in simple goodness¹³
 - 1) Such people are pictured in Scripture as possessors of sheep who kill the sheep and do not hold themselves responsible.¹⁴
 - b. Extinguishing the truths and goods of the church¹⁵
 - c. Destroying what is good and true¹⁶
 - d. Extinction of the good and truth that belong to faith and goodwill¹⁷
 - e. Extinction of the spiritual and heavenly things in the Lord's kingdom¹⁸
 - f. Extinction of the divine things in the Lord¹⁹
- 7. Depriving your neighbor of faith and goodwill²⁰
 - a. Causing anyone to perish as to spiritual life, which is the life of faith and of goodwill²¹
 - b. Extinguishing faith and goodwill²²
 - c. Violence done to goodwill²³

- 8. Killing people as to their soul; thus depriving them 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 $live^{27}$
 - Taking a gift for killing the soul of innocent blood²⁸
- c. Taki 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. People can extinguish what is good and true by means of immoderate zeal when they don't know what the truth is.³²

Effects of murder on the person who commits it:

- 1. Delivered into tribulation³³
- 2. Killed³⁴

a.

- 3. Deprived of spiritual life³⁵
- 4. With regard to knowledge:
 - Matters of knowledge having to do with truth and good...
 - 1) Do not shine with their light.³⁶
 - 2) Are no longer lit up by the light of heaven.³⁷
 - b. Truth is no longer seen. 38
 - c. They who understand what is true will nevertheless extinguish it.³⁹
 - d. Every truth of the church will wither.⁴⁰
 - e. Truth and an affection for it 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 what is good:
 - a. Good is no longer seen.⁴⁶
 - b. Good and an affection for it will be consumed.⁴⁷
 - c. Profanation of what is good⁴⁸
 - d. Vastation of what is good⁴⁹
 - e. Good that belong to faith is destroyed.⁵⁰
- 7. With regard to goodwill:
 - a. A person is without goodwill.⁵¹
 - b. Goodwill cannot arise.⁵²
 - c. Extinction of goodwill⁵³
- 8. There is no longer faith because there is no goodwill.⁵⁴
- 9. The person will perish by reason of falsity.⁵⁵
- 10. The person will perish by reason of evil that is born of falsity.⁵⁶
 - Good that is born of truth will be perverted by evil that is born of falsity.⁵⁷
- 11. Truths that relate to good will perish by means of false teachings that come forth from evil.⁵⁸
- 12. The person will utterly extinguish innocence.⁵⁹
 - a. [Note: Innocence consists in being led by the Lord.]⁶⁰

- 13.
- 14. 15.
- Profanation of the Lord Jehovah⁶¹ Love of the Lord cannot arise.⁶² The person can no longer be regenerated, so long as he or she is caught up in the sin of murder.⁶³

Quick Reference

- from -

The Apocalypse Explained

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly (literal) meaning:⁶⁴

- 1. Destroying the bodily life of your brother⁶⁵
 - a. [See the editorial note for "brother" on p. 3 of this document, #4. b. 1).]

Broader earthly meaning:⁶⁶

- 1. To kill a person's spirit, that is,...⁶⁷
 - a. To take away spiritual life⁶⁸
 - b. To take away the life of heaven⁶⁹
- 2. To hate
 - a. Hatred⁷⁰
 - 1) Hatred breathes murder.⁷¹
 - b. $\hat{\text{Deadly hatreds}^{72}}$
 - 1) These breathe slaughter.⁷³
- 3. Hating your neighbor⁷⁴
 - a. Hatred against your neighbor⁷⁵
 - b. Hatred against your "brother"⁷⁶
 - c. Wishing to kill⁷⁷
 - d. The will to kill⁷⁸
 - e. An endeavor to kill⁷⁹
- 4. Being inflamed with hatred...⁸⁰
 - a. \checkmark Against all who do not make one with you⁸¹
 - b. Against all who do not favor your love^{\$2}
 - c. Especially against those who oppose your lusts (i.e., self-centered or materialistic longings, desires, or cravings)⁸³
- 5. Hating your brother or neighbor, thus...⁸⁴
 - a. Defaming or slandering him or her, thus...⁸⁵
 - 1) Killing his reputation⁸⁶
 - 2) Killing her honor⁸⁷
 - 3) Killing his life (his civil life) among his brethren⁸⁸
 - a) Destroying this life⁸⁹
 - 4) When this is done from resentment, hatred, or revenge, it is murder. 90
- 6. Scripture:⁹¹
 - a. Being angry with your brother rashly
 - b. Saying to your brother, "Raca!"
 - c. Saying, "You fool!"

(Cont.)

- 7. Resentment, hatred, revenge⁹²
 - These things... a.
 - 1) Breathe murder.⁹³
 - 2) Will murder.⁹⁴
 - 3) Are efforts toward murder.⁹⁵
- Revenge⁹⁶ 8.
 - Deadly revenges⁹⁷ a.
 - These breathe slaughter.⁹⁸ 1)
 - Loving revenge⁹⁹ b.
 - Revenge breathes murder.¹⁰⁰ c.
- 9. Hating the good of the church and its truth¹⁰¹

Spiritual meaning:¹⁰²

- Taking away from people their faith and love of God, thus...¹⁰³ 1.
 - Taking away their spiritual life.¹⁰⁴
 - This is murder itself.¹⁰⁵ b.
- 2. Wishing or willing to take away people's spiritual life¹⁰⁶
 - Being in hatred against them if you can't take it away¹⁰⁷ a.
 - Hating the faith and love that exist with them, thus...¹⁰⁸ b. Hating their person¹⁰⁹ 1)
- 3. Killing people's essence, that is, goodness and truth¹¹⁰
 - Destroying what is good and true¹¹¹ a.
 - b. Destroying humanness (or the human essence) itself¹¹²

The nature of all who are in hell and who therefore come into hell after death:¹¹³ 1.

They are...

3.

- In hatred against the Lord.¹¹⁴ a.
- In hatred against heaven.¹¹⁵ b.
- In infernal hatred against all who are in what is good.¹¹⁶ C.
 - They attempt to destroy those who are in good.¹¹⁷ 1)
 - 2) This is deadly hatred.¹¹⁸
- Against what is good and true.¹¹⁹ d.
- 2. Hatred lies concealed in their spirits.¹²⁰
 - It is proportionate to the evil of their lives.¹²¹ a.
 - The main delight they feel is in doing what is evil.¹²²
 - This delight comes from hatred.¹²³ a.
 - It is a delight in killing.¹²⁴ b.
 - It is a fire.¹²⁵ c.
 - It is a fire that burns with a lust for destroying souls.¹²⁶ 1)
 - d. It does not come from hatred against those whom they attempt to destroy, but from hatred against the Lord Himself.¹²⁷
- 4. They are eager to kill humanness (or the human essence) itself, which is goodness and truth from the Lord.¹²⁸
 - As they cannot kill the body they wish to kill the spirit, that is,¹²⁹ a.
 - To take away spiritual life.¹³⁰ 1)
 - To take away the life of heaven.¹³¹ 2)

(Cont.)

Notes on hatred:

- 1. Hatred is...
 - Infernal fire.¹³² a.
 - Infernal fire is nothing else than resentment, hatred, and revenge.¹³³ 1)
 - The fire of hell.¹³⁴ b.
 - Manifested in anger.¹³⁵ c.
- Hatred is conceived of a [self-centered] love of self and of the world.¹³⁶ 2.
 - [Editorial note: Emanuel Swedenborg suggests that there is a good a. and healthy form of self-love, also a good and healthy form of love for the things of the world. He also suggests that if love for ourselves and love for the things of the world become *more important* to us than loving our neighbor and loving God/the Lord, these two forms of love tend to become selfish, self-centered, and hateful of others and the Lord. Most often, when Swedenborg talks about these two forms of love (which he refers to as "love of self" and "love of the world") he is talking about the selfish forms of these loves. For purposes of this outline, then, the words "self-centered" are added, to make it clear that it is the *selfish* forms of these two loves that are being talked about, not the good and healthy forms. For a fuller explanation of this, see the BNL Sourcebook, section B (Starting Assumptions), assumption #4, titled, "There are four universal kinds (or levels) of love."]
 - Hatred lurks within this love of self and love of the world whenever b. they are not rewarded.¹³⁷
 - "The evil of this love of self is... 1)
 - a) Hatred against the neighbor,
 - A resulting burning desire for revenge, b)
 - And a delight in cruelty."¹³⁸ c)
- 3. Hatred exists especially with those who are caught up in a [self-centered] love of ruling (or dominating) all people.¹³⁹
 - The root of hatred is this love of ruling over all.¹⁴⁰ a.

Qualifiers:141

- 1. There is a seeming hatred and consequent anger with good people against what is evil.
 - This is not hatred, but an aversion to evil. a. b.
 - Neither is it anger but a zeal for what is good.
 - A heavenly fire lies concealed within this zeal. 1)
- 2. Good people turn away from evil and are seemingly angry at their neighbor.
 - They do this in order to remove what is evil. a.
 - b. In this way they have positive regard for the neighbor's good.

Quick Reference

- from -

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

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly (literal) meaning:¹⁴²

- 1. To will the murder of a person's body in this world
- 2. Resentment of any kind
- 3. Hatred of any kind
 - a. To kindle with hatred
 - Revenge of any kind¹⁴³
 - a. To burn with revenge
- 5. To be rashly angry with your brother or neighbor¹⁴⁴
- 6. To hold him or her as an enemy¹⁴⁵</sup>

Spiritual meaning:¹⁴⁶

4.

- 1. To will the murder of a person's soul
- 2. Any method of killing and destroying people's souls

Heavenly meaning:¹⁴⁷

- 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

Quick Reference

- from -

True Christianity

Emanuel Swedenborg

Earthly (literal) meaning:¹⁴⁸

- 1. To kill a person
- To inflict any wound on a person from which he or she may die 2.
- 3. To maim a person's body
- 4. To inflict any deadly harm on a person's name and reputation

Broader earthly meaning:¹⁴⁹

- Resentment 1.
- 2. Hatred а
 - To be inflamed with hate
 - Hatred is murder. 1)
- 3. Revenge
 - To burn with revenge a.
- Notes on resentment, hatred, and revenge: 4.
 - They are passions. a.
 - They are passions that breathe slaughter. b.
 - c. Murder lies concealed in them like fire in wood under ashes.
 - They are murder as it exists in a person's intentions. d.
 - They are "murder in intention, not in act."¹⁵⁰ 1)
 - They would break forth into act if a fear of the law or of retaliation e. and revenge were removed from them,
 - Especially if there is treachery or ferocity in the intention. 1)
 - f. They are murder as it exists in a person's will, that is,¹⁵¹
 - 1) They are the will to murder.
 - 2) They are murder in its essence (or "essential" murder).
 - Note: Whatever belongs to a person's intention belongs also to 3) his or her will, thus it is the essence of the deed that is done.¹⁵²
 - Infernal fire is nothing else.
- g. Internal tire is nouting ease. To be rashly angry with your brother¹⁵³ 5.
- To say to your brother, "Raca!"¹⁵⁴ 6.
- To say, "You fool!"¹⁵⁵ 7.

Spiritual meaning:¹⁵⁶

- All methods of killing and destroying the souls of people; for example... 1.
 - Turning people away from God, religion, and worship of the Divine a.
 - b. Inducing scandalous thoughts against these

- c. Promoting beliefs that can cause aversion to them and even abhorrence of them
- 2. Destroying souls by means of falsities
- 3. Violating and prostituting the sanctities of the church

Heavenly meaning:¹⁵⁷

- 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 inner self, unless reformed by the Lord: Note: This quality is apparent from the nature of the devils and satans in hell

Note: This quality is apparent from the nature of the devils and satans in hell, which is as follows:¹⁵⁸

- 1. They have it constantly in mind to kill the Lord.
- 2. They cannot do this, so they want ("are in the effort") 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 goodwill 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 (extreme anger) 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 attempt to devour the children.
- 8. They hate the Lord.
 - a. They are in hatred against the Lord.¹⁵⁹
- 9. They hate the Lord's New Church.
 - a. They are in hatred against it.¹⁶⁰
 - b. [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 meaning* and *Final notes*.)]
- 10. They wish to destroy the Lord's church.

Endnotes

¹ SH 8902:1 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 Emanuel Swedenborg, Heaven and Hell 280 ⁶¹ SH 8902:11 62 SH 8902:3 63 SH 8902:3 64 AE 1012:4 ⁶⁵ AE 1012:3 ⁶⁶ 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." 67 AE 1014:3 68 AE 1014:3 69 AE 1014:3 70 AE 1015:2 71 AE 935:2 72 AE 949:3 ⁷³ AE 949:3 ⁷⁴ AE 935:2, 1014:3 ⁷⁵ AE 1016:2 76 AE 1015:3 77 AE 1014:3 ⁷⁸ AE 1015:2 ⁷⁹ AE 1016:3 ⁸⁰ AE 1016:2 ⁸¹ AE 1016:2 ⁸² AE 1016:2 ⁸³ AE 1016:2 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 91 AE 1012:3, Matt. 5:21-26 ⁹² AE 1012:3 93 AE 1012:3 94 AE 1012:3 95 AE 1012:3 ⁹⁶ AE 1015:2 97 AE 949:3 98 AE 949:3 99 AE 935:2 100 AE 935:2 101 AE 1014:3 102 AE 1012:3,4

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 1012:4	
¹¹⁰ AE 1013:2	
¹¹¹ AE 1013:2	
¹¹² AE 1013:2	
¹¹³ AE 1013:2,3	
¹¹⁴ AE 1013:2,3	
¹¹⁵ AE 1013:2,3	
¹¹⁶ AE 1013:4	
¹¹⁷ AE 1013:4	
¹¹⁸ AE 1013:4	
¹¹⁹ AE 1013:2,3	
¹²⁰ AE 1013:3	
¹²¹ AE 1013:3	
¹²² AE 1013:4, 1014:2	
AE 1013:4, 1014:2	
¹²³ AE 1014:2,3	
¹²⁴ AE 1014:3	
¹²⁵ AE 1013:4	
¹²⁶ AE 1013:4	
¹²⁷ AE 1013:4	
¹²⁸ AE 1013:4	
¹²⁹ AE 1014:3	
¹³⁰ AE 1014:3	
¹³¹ AE 1014:3	
¹³² AE 1016:2	
¹³³ Life 67	
¹³⁴ AE 1017	
¹³⁵ AE 1016:3	
¹³⁶ AE 1016:2	
AE 1016:2	
¹³⁷ AE 1017	
¹³⁸ SH 4750:5	
¹³⁹ AE 1016:2	
¹⁴⁰ AE 1017	
¹⁴¹ AE 1016:3 unless otherwise noted	
¹⁴² Life 67 unless otherwise noted	
¹⁴³ Life 67 unless otherwise noted	.,
¹⁴³ Life 72 Note: There are "many mo	re″
kinds of murder other than enmitie	es,
hatred and revenge.	
¹⁴⁴ Life 73, Matt. 5:21-22	
¹⁴⁵ Life 73	
¹⁴⁶ Life 67 unless otherwise noted	
¹⁴⁷ Life 67 unless otherwise noted	
¹⁴⁸ TG 200 l st	
¹⁴⁸ TC 309 unless otherwise noted	
 ¹⁴⁹ TC 309 unless otherwise noted ¹⁵⁰ TC 309 	
¹⁵⁰ TC 309	
¹⁵¹ TC 309, 312	
¹⁵² TC 309	
¹⁵³ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22	
¹⁵⁴ TC 309 Matt 5.21 22	
¹⁵⁴ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22	
¹⁵⁵ TC 309, Matt. 5:21-22 ¹⁵⁶ TC 310 unless otherwise noted	
1C 310 unless otherwise noted	
¹⁵⁷ TC 311 unless otherwise noted	

¹⁵⁸ TC	312 unless otherwis	e noted
¹⁵⁹ TC	312	
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