

Commandment VI: The Anatomy of Murder

Moving beyond the physical act to confront the weaponry of words.

Drawn from the teachings of Pastor Wallin O'Connor

The Progression of the Law

A Spiritual Diagnostic Report of Divine and Human Relations.



Commandments 1–4:
Establishing divine authority,
pure worship, and holy time.

Commandment 5:
The transitional bridge.
Honoring parents as a
reflection of the Divine.

Commandment 6:
"You shall not murder."
The entry point into
human-to-human
morality and justice.

~~KILL~~

The Hebrew Standard of Hostility

The English word "kill" is deceptively broad. The original text relies on a highly specific legal and spiritual standard.

RATZA: To murder or slay with premeditation and hostility. It requires a heart postured toward destruction.



רצח

The Biblical Standard of Intent (Numbers 35)

	 Manslaughter (Accidental) 	 Murder (Intentional) 
The Act	Occurs without the intent to severely harm. 	Unlawful, intentional, and premeditated killing. 
The Implement	An unintentional trip or fall. 	An instrument of iron, stone, or wood designed to cause death. 
The Consequence	Asylum in a designated City of Refuge. 	Facing the Avenger of Blood; justice demanded by death. 

The Anatomy of the First Fall



1

Offense & Pride

Cain's offering is rejected while Abel's is respected. His countenance falls.



2

Divine Intervention

God provides a warning and an avenue of grace: "Sin lies at the door."



4

The Cover-Up

Lying to the Omniscient: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The Premeditated Act

The internal hostility is externalized in the field.

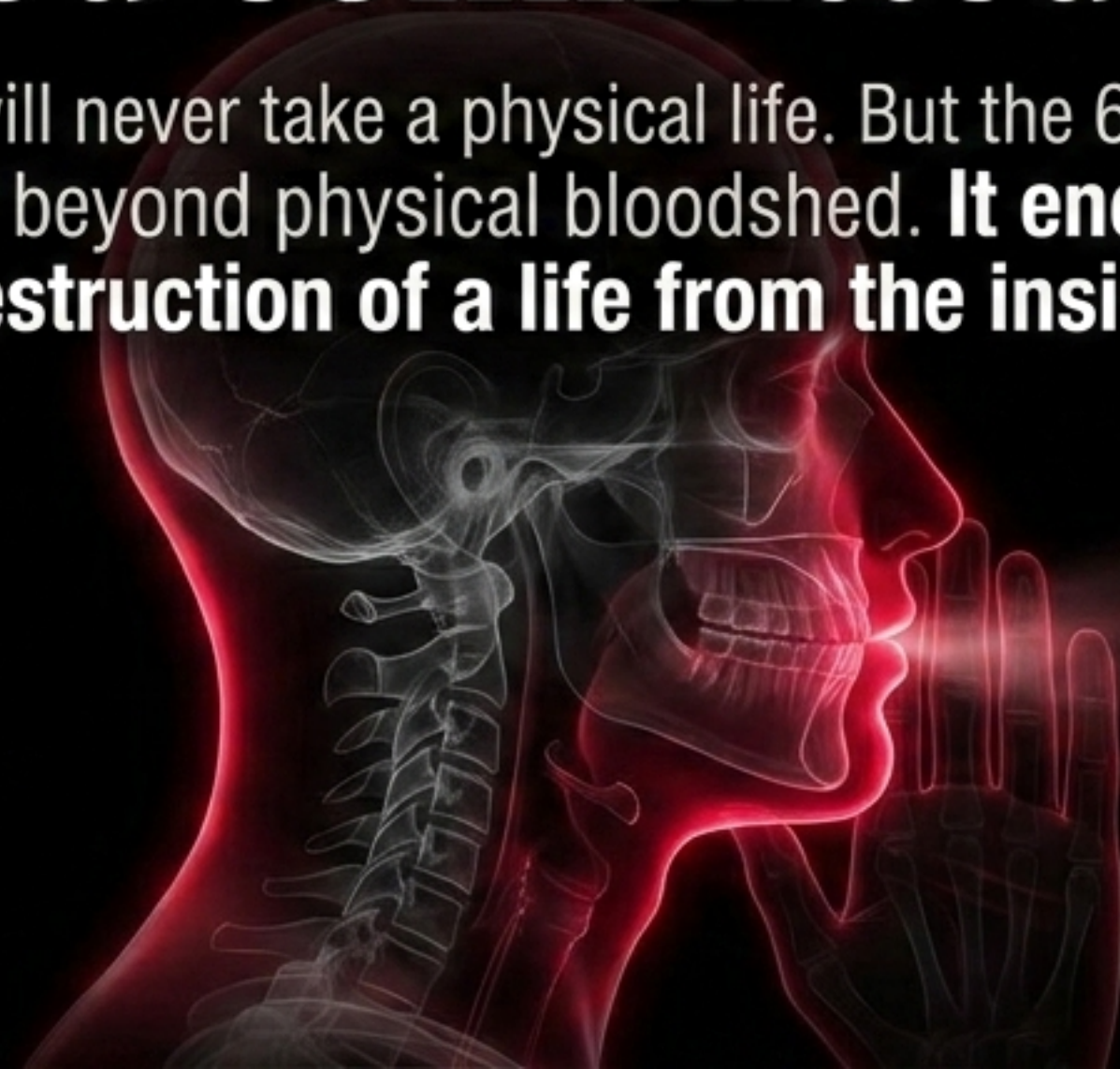


3

Sin takes you further than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you can pay.

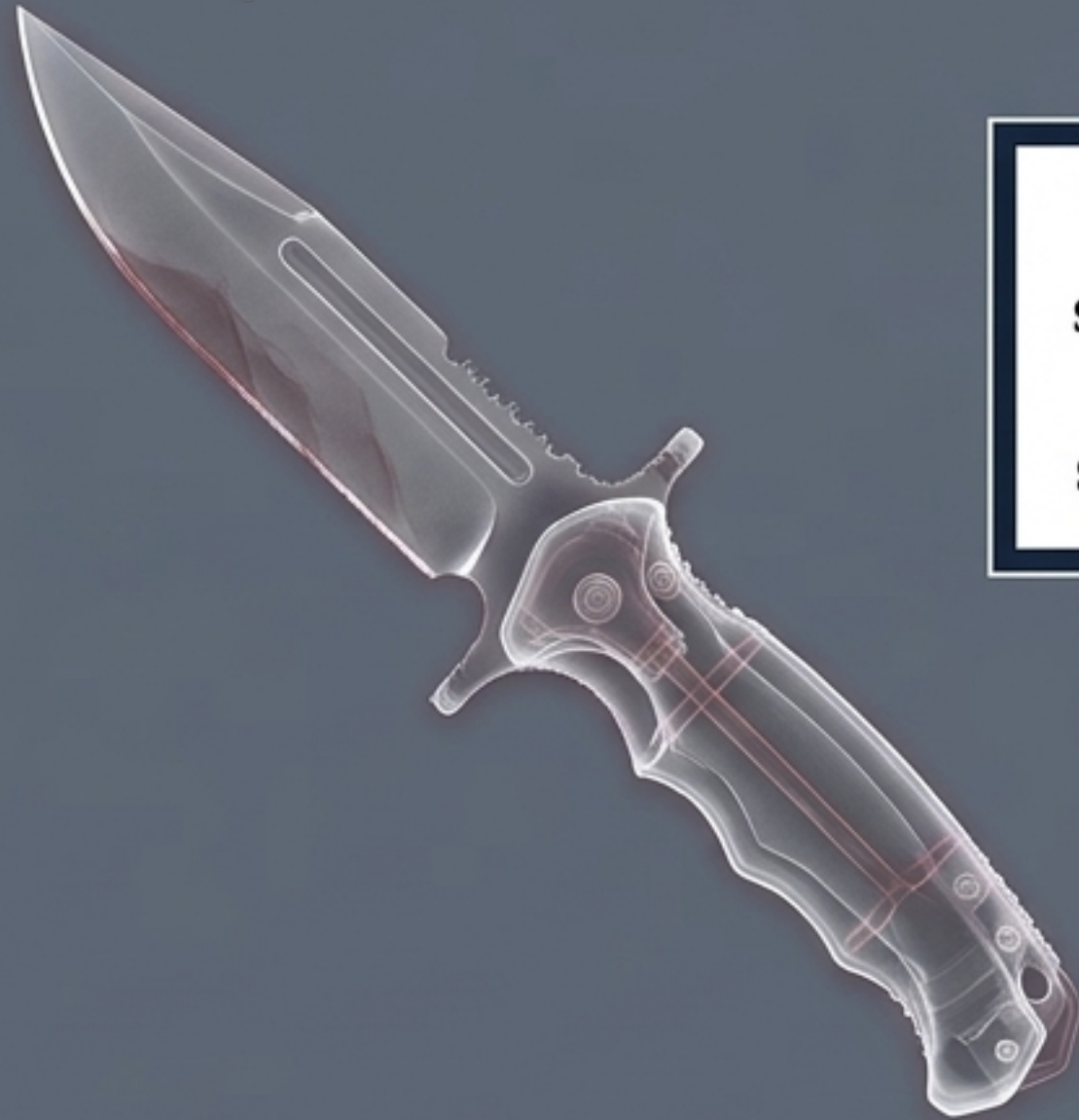
Have you committed murder?

Most of us will never take a physical life. But the 6th Commandment extends far beyond physical bloodshed. **It encompasses the destruction of a life from the inside out.**



The Weaponry of Character Assassination

Physical Bloodshed



The murder I am speaking about is the killing of someone's character.



- **Gossip:** Idle talk, rumors, and reports shared without verification.
- **Backbiting:** Malicious intent carefully disguised as concern or prayer requests.
- **The Casualty:** Killing the very people the Holy Spirit is actively trying to save.

The Seven Abominations (Proverbs 6:16)

- 1 A proud look
- 2 A lying tongue
- 3 Hands that shed innocent blood
- 4 A heart devising wicked plans
- 5 Feet running to evil
- 6 A false witness



**7. He who sows discord among brethren.
(The ultimate sabotage of the church body).**

A Two-Front Defense Strategy

Cut the Supply: Stop Chatting.

Refuse to manufacture
or spread unverified
character attacks.
Silence the friendly fire.

The Standard: Demand Biblical Confrontation.

Enforce Matthew 18.
Require individuals to speak
directly to the person
they are offended by,
eliminating cowardly
whispering.

Cut the Demand: Stop Listening.

When someone brings
you gossip, turn them
away immediately.

Bulletproof Faith (Ephesians 6)

Helmet of Salvation:
Guards the mind from internalizing false reports and rumors.

Belt of Truth:
Holds the objective narrative together against the weight of lies.

Sword of the Spirit:
The Word of God used to cut swiftly through deception.

Breastplate of Righteousness:
Protects the emotional core from absorbing malice and bitterness.

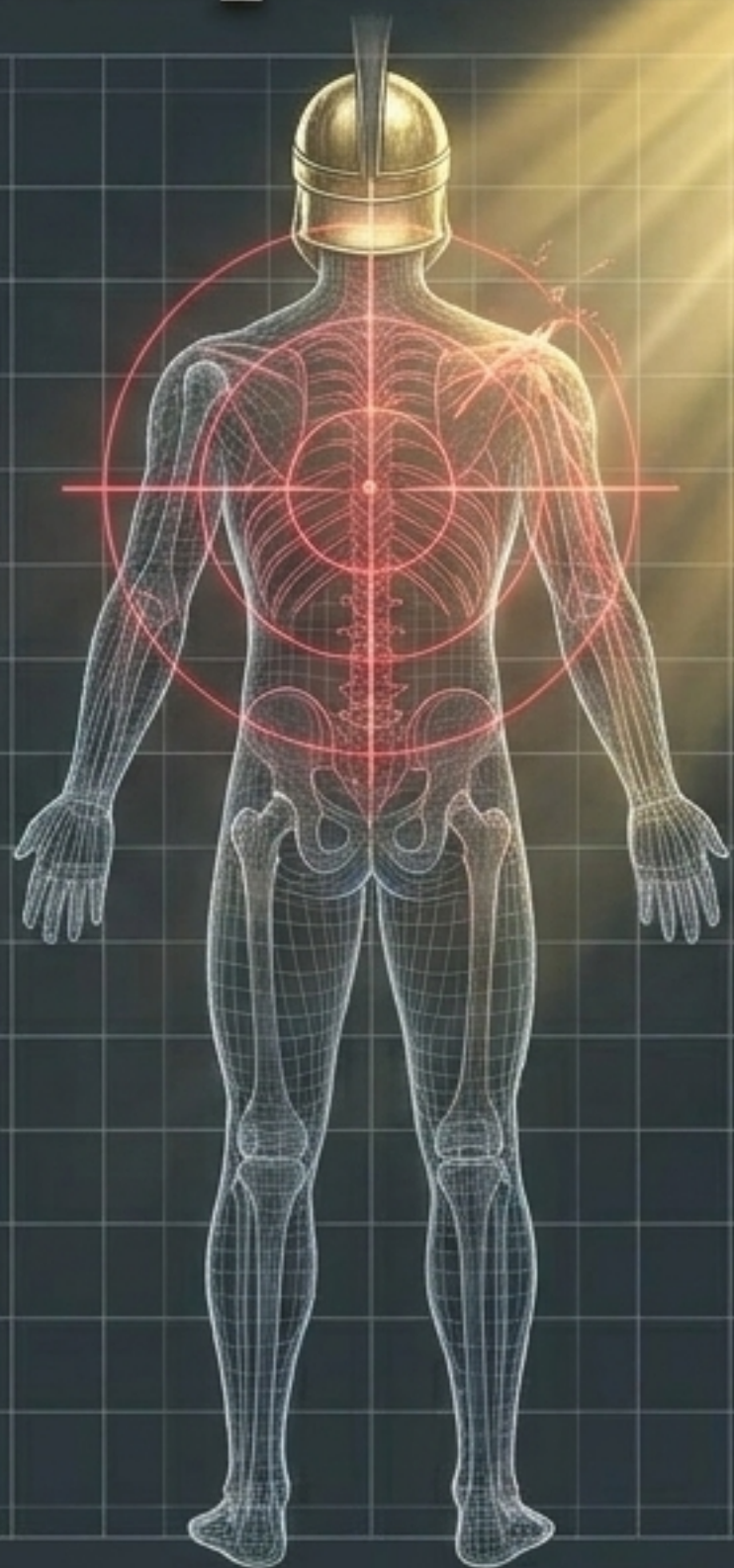
Shield of Faith:
Quenches the fiery darts of name-calling, backbiting, and slander.

Shoes of Peace:
Prevents feet from running swiftly toward drama and evil.



The Exposed Back

The Armor of God heavily fortifies the front of the believer, but deliberately leaves the back completely vulnerable. Why?



Because there is no retreating in faith, and there are no backbiters in heaven. When God moves you forward, He leaves nothing behind that can destroy you.

The U-Turn

God is not looking for a perfect church; He is looking for a willing, honest, and obedient one. It is time to lay down the weaponry of words.

Action Steps Checklist

- ✓ **Acknowledge:** Admit where you have held **murderous intent** through gossip.
- ✓ **Repent:** Bring the hidden hostility into the light before God.
- ✓ **Reconcile:** Make the uncomfortable call. **Apologize** directly to those whose character you have targeted.