THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS

#6 You shall not murder
By Shad David Sluiter
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The first commandment

You shall have no other gods before me.
The second commandment

You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
The third commandment

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
The fourth commandment

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
The fifth commandment

Honor your father and mother.
The sixth commandment

You shall not murder.
The first Murder...

Genesis 4 – Cain and Abel
Adam and Even sinned and were sent out of the garden.
Their two sons, Cain and Abel, made a sacrifice to God.
Abel offered a lamb from his flock.

God accepted Abel’s lamb.
Cain brought the best fruit he could grow.

God did not accept Cain’s offering.
Cain was angry with God so he killed his brother.
Cain! Where is your brother?

How should I know? Am I my brother’s babysitter?
What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries to me from the ground!
You will have to go away.

My punishment is greater than I can bear.
Capital punishment begins with Noah

Genesis 9:5-6
(5) And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.
(6) "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

Genesis 9 is called the “Noah Covenant.” God made new promises and demands to Noah after the flood. In the case of Cain and Abel, there was no capital punishment given yet.
What is “the image of God”?

“The image of God” does not mean that man looks like God, but rather refers to the spiritual part of man. We are different from the animal world in ways mentally, morally, and socially.

**Mentally**, man is a reflection of God’s intellect and creativity. We can invent machines, write stories, paint, compose music, solve problems, think of abstract concepts and make plans.

**Morally**, man can make choices. Our conscience is a remainder of the uncorrupted sense of justice that we once had in Eden. We see our moral likeness to God when we create a law, recoil from evil, praise good behavior, or feel guilty.

**Socially**, man was created for fellowship and worship. In Eden, man’s primary relationship was with God. Salvation restores this most important relationship. Every time someone marries, makes a friend, hugs a child, or attends church, he is demonstrating the fact that we are made in the likeness of God.
Is Capital Punishment different than Murder?

Capital punishment is killing someone as punishment for murder. This most severe punishment is given because:

1) Man is made “in the image of God” (Genesis 9:6). Taking a human life is a direct insult to God.

2) Before the flood “violence filled the earth”. To reverse the trend of unrestrained violence, punishment was given to the worst of crimes.

Are there restrictions on the use of capital punishment?

Capital punishment to be used cautiously:
1) In Israel, multiple witnesses were required to convict a criminal (Deut 17:6-7; 19:15; Heb 10:28). Witnesses threw the first stone.
2) Jesus condemned the practice of false testimony by changing the phrase to “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” (John 8:7)
3) Brutal executions and unmentionable torture methods that were common in western society until recent times don’t correspond well with the spirit of Jesus’ words in John 8.
The sixth commandment

You shall not murder.