

# THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH

## The Ten Commandments



1. God protects human life in the Fifth Commandment. Isaiah 55:6 reads: "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near." Why is the time of a person's life so important? What do we call this time?

*A person's lifetime is important because it is his or her only opportunity to come to know Jesus Christ and be saved. We call this time a person's "Time of Grace."*

2. Who alone has the right to take life? Give specific examples of the kinds of taking life that violate this commandment.

*God gives life, and he alone has the right to take it. Abortion (the killing of the unborn), euthanasia (mercy killing of the elderly), infanticide (mercy killing of the young), murder, and causing another's death through carelessness violate God's will.*

3. Give specific examples of the kinds of taking life that do not violate this commandment.

*God allows the government to take the life of a murderer (capital punishment). God also allows individuals to take life in self-defense or in a just war.*

4. In the Fifth Commandment, God forbids suicide. Give examples of present-day reasons by which people defend the act of suicide.

*Suicide is defended by claiming that it is an individual's right, that it allows one to die with dignity, and that it puts an end to suffering and poor quality of life.*

5. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that the Fifth Commandment can be broken without the actual taking of life. What are the ways in which this commandment might be violated without the taking of life?

*Hateful thoughts, words, and actions that harm one's own or another's body also violate the Fifth Commandment.*

6. What are some sins of omission against the Fifth Commandment?

*God demands that we be patient, kind, forgiving, helpful, and friendly to all others. Failing to do these things are sins against the Fifth Commandment.*

7. State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

- *The theory of evolution makes a person's body and life a cheap thing.*

*The theory of evolution cheapens human life by denying that God is the giver of life and that he created people for a divine purpose and with an immortal soul.*

- *A person who commits suicide is automatically damned.*

*Although both men in the Bible who committed suicide went to hell, Scripture does not tell us that those who commit suicide are automatically damned. God is the Judge. It is unbelief that damns. Mentally ill people may commit sinful acts, even suicide, without having fallen from faith.*

- *We commit more sins of omission than commission against the Fifth Commandment.*

*Answers regarding omission and commission will vary.*