



DIGNITY

- Human life is a **different category** than every other type of life found on earth
- God's own image (*Genesis 9:5-6*)
- For God's sake, it must be treated with **respect** and **dignity** in every way possible.

“kill” (ratsach) = premeditation

OT = killing permitted in war or
self defense

OT = distinguishes between **accidental** deaths and other types

OT = allowance for death **penalty**
in many instances

- civil/religious/sexual
- negligence that amounted to irresponsibility or indifference

Throughout all scripture, God forbids personal revenge. In all instances of capital punishment, God's law took the power of death out of the hands of one **individual** and placed it fully into the hands of a larger **group** of people.

- Judges • Elders • Courts • Witnesses
- Community i.e. **system** of justice.

‘You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

(Matthew 5:21-22 NIV)

JESUS... more concerned with the law's intention than its wording.

*Any treatment that **devalues** a person, **exploits** their weakness, **ignores** their need, or **discounts** God's image within them is kin to murder.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in **CONFLICT** with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

(Galatians 5:16-17 NIV)

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery...

(Galatians 5:19-21)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
and self-control. Against such
things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.

(Galatians 5:24-26)



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