

AMONG AMERICAN GODS

A SERIES ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This week, Derek continued our series on the Ten Commandments by preaching on the 6th Commandment.

READ

Exodus 20:13

Matthew 5:21-24

Matthew 5:9

REFLECT

1. Before this sermon, how have you reflected on the 6th Commandment to not murder? What significance does this commandment have in your life?
2. Derek began with a difficult statement: "America is a culture of death." How did that statement and the statistical evidence and explanation effect you?
3. Derek said that this commandment "finds its origin in the image of God." Why is the image of God significant to this discussion?
4. What might change if you were able to "defragment your theology of life" as Derek suggested? What human lives might you be diminishing their value as image-bearers? Do you struggle more with fighting for the life and dignity of the unborn, the criminal, the refugee, the impoverished, the enemy or some other subgroup of people?

PRAY

- + Confess to God how often we are myopic in our appreciation of the image of God in others.
- + Ask God to help us defragment our theology of Life.
- + Thank God for providing a path away from our culture of death and toward a respect for life.
- + Pray for renewal in our Church, our Community, and our City.

PRACTICE

- + Derek explained that, on a personal level, this idol manifests in a belief that "my life is the only life that matters, my significance, my status, my flourishing." He went on to explain that we can diagnose if Life has become an idol for us by whether we "move towards others in violence." Have you experienced this in your own life? How so?
- + Derek provided some guidance both on the need for reconciliation and how to practice reconciliation. What relationships and areas might you need to become a peacemaker in? How can you initiate practices of reconciliation this week?