

Saints and sinners: The fifth commandment means?

Thou shalt not kill. (Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:17)
 "What does this mean?"
 "We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need."
 (Numberings and definitions are from Martin Luther's Small Catechism.)
 One definition of sin (and few definitions are better) is "breaking the Ten Commandments." But even those who accept this definition and are not wholly innocent of all 10, are, for the most part, inclined to plead innocent to committing any sin against the Fifth Commandment. "I have never killed anybody," most assert.

Martin Luther, however, went beyond a literal interpretation of the commandments. In the case of this commandment, we are not only forbidden to kill, we must not "hurt nor harm our neighbors in his body."
 The compilers of the Lutheran Catechism studybook define this as "doing or saying anything which may destroy, shorten or embitter this life."
 In Thomas Hardy's novel "The Return of the Native," Clym Yeobright, brooding over Eustacia's drowning for which he feels responsible, says, "She is the second woman I have killed this year. I was a great cause of my mother's death and I am the chief cause of Eustacia's." His marriage, he felt, had caused



george plagenz

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what turned out to be a mortal breach in his relationship with his mother.
 Luther also considered the commandments to be not only prohibitions against wrongdoing, but commands to rightdoing. We must "help and befriend" our neighbor "in every bodily need" if we want to get a passing mark on this commandment.

To test yourself whether you are keeping this commandment, ask yourself, "Have I befriended anyone lately? What acts of kindness have I done?"
 The Fifth Commandment is often advanced by people who oppose war or capital punishment — even hunting. Such forms of killing, however, were not prohibited in the Old Testament times. A more accurate rendering of this commandment would be, "Thou shalt do no murder" — although it goes beyond that.
 Even unpremeditated killing of one Israelite by another was covered by this commandment, which was concerned with the protection of human life within the Jewish community. Inten-

tional killing was punishable by death (capital punishment), but for those guilty of unintentional homicide, cities of sanctuary were set up to protect them from the angry would-be avengers. Moses gives the Israelites an example of unintentional homicide in Deuteronomy 19:
 "If a man goes into the forest with a neighbor to chop wood, and the axe flies off the handle and kills the man's neighbor, he may flee to one of those cities of sanctuary and be safe."
 In so many words, I believe this commandment does not forbid the slaying of animals, capital punishment or the killing of enemies in war. What it does forbid is all killing not explicitly authorized.

Author of Joshua books aims to go 'ever deeper into what Jesus was like'

By Michael Hill
Associated Press Writer
 ALTAMONT, N.Y. — Joseph Girzone could always tell a story.
 As a young priest, he says, he'd share tales about Jesus with rapt high school kids and deliver sermons after taking the pulpit with zero preparation — totally reliant on the grace of God.
 Later came his best-selling "Joshua" books, folksy stories about a latter-day Jesus figure who lives in a cottage, carves wood, helps with the dishes and heals people.
 At age 72, Girzone's storytelling talent is still bearing fruit. A movie was released this year based on his Joshua character. His novel, "The Messenger," came out in April and this month brings his 16th book, "Trinity."
 The new book aims to explain the holy Trinity — a basic mystery of Roman Catholicism. But since it's by Girzone, it tries to shed light on same topics he has grappled with since his

sermonizing days: Who was Jesus? How did he think? How did he feel?
 "It's a continuous strain in my life," he says "going ever deeper into what Jesus was like."
 Girzone is ruddy-faced with white hair. He is quick to laugh and an animated talker. Telling one story about an old Irish priest he slips into a faux brogue.
 He lives for much of the year in a big white house on a hillside overlooking the Albany area. The largely immaculate home — the exception is his disheveled office — does double duty as a site for religious retreats he regularly runs with a Dominican nun named Sister Dorothy Ederer.
 Girzone grew up nearby in Albany (serving as an altar boy in the same church as another future author, William Kennedy) and went into the seminary as a teenager. After teaching high school in the Bronx, he served as a parish priest in the Albany area.

Back then, his writing consisted mostly of reports and weekly letters in the church bulletin, which proved popular. While priests typically write sermons, Girzone essentially ad-libbed, all the better to let God guide him, he says.
 Serious writing came after he retired from parish work in 1981 in the face of stress, high blood pressure and a high risk of stroke.
 He was living with his sister Margaret Mary when he wrote "Joshua," a "what if" parable of Jesus walking the earth today. Joshua is tolerant of people's weaknesses but intolerant of piety and heavy-handed church authorities. Girzone kept the tale simple.
 Twenty-eight publishers rejected it. "They said these kinds of books don't sell," he recalled.
 He printed 5,000 copies on his own for \$12,000 and began selling them at talks. Sales grew by word of mouth. By 1986, Girzone was spending late nights

shipping out books from his home as "Joshua" became an unlikely best seller for Waldenbooks.
 In 1987, Collier Books issued a paperback "Joshua." It has sold more than 3 million copies and its sequels have sold more than 1 million, according to Doubleday, which has published Girzone's last 10 titles.
 The Joshua books can elicit strong reactions. Fans say the books affirm their faith by making Jesus come alive. Critics have called the writing simplistic. Conservative Catholics have criticized Joshua's ecumenical nature and willingness to take on church authority.
 Girzone notes with satisfaction that he saw the Joshua books displayed in a window of a Vatican book store.
 "I know they're popular over there," he said.
 The Joshua movie came out in April. In it, F. Murray Abraham plays a disappearing priest. But the quiet, Christian tale was not designed to compete for

cinemas against blockbusters. Crusader Entertainment's Epiphany Films opted to roll "Joshua" out market by market, eventually showing it on 300 screens. The video and DVD were released in October.
 Girzone did not write the script and has done little in the way of promotional appearances. He says he has slowed down since an illness a few years ago. His writing sessions, he says, are punctuated with snoozes in his chair.
 TOPEKA (AP) — An advocacy group gave Kansas a better grade this year for how its children are faring but worries that budget problems will lead the state to make harmful cuts in education and social services.
 Kansas Action for Children gave the state a grade of "B," an improvement over the "C plus" grade the state received last year. The report indicated an improvement in access to child care.

He says he intends to work as long as he has the strength and has started another Joshua book.
 It starts with Joshua walking down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Since he looks vaguely Middle Eastern and out of place, FBI agents take him in for questioning. What comes next, God only knows, Girzone says with a laugh.
 "I have no idea. God has to tell me page to page what to put in next."
 The group released its report card Tuesday and staged a rally, with about 150 schoolchildren present. Many held signs with slogans such as "Kids first" and "More money for schools."
 Executive Director Gary Brunk said Kansas Action for Children wants to raise the awareness of children's issues and make sure they're discussed when legislators and Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius discuss the budget next year.



Bible Baptist Church

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
 Fifth & Broadway
 899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
 Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Morning Service: 10:30 am
 Evening Service: 6:00 pm
Wednesday: Adult Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
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Church of Christ
 401 Caldwell
 899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
 Third & Caldwell
 899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
 Worship Service: 10:50 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Bud Chester
 Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Morning Worship: 10:30 am
 Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
 Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church
 1116 Sherman
 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
 Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
 Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday:
 Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
 Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
 13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
 Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado
United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
 109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
 Morning Worship: 11 am
 Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
 104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
 Worship Service: 11 am
 Youth Group at Gattshall's at 5:30 pm
 Adult Bible Study 6 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 13th & Center
 899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am
 Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
 Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
 223 E. 10th
 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Weekend services
Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor:
 Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
 Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
 Worship Service: 9 am CST
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
 La Luz Del Mundo
 Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
 1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
 307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
 Saturday: 6 pm
 Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
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 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
 694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
 Sunday School: 10 am
 Evening Service: 6 pm

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