

LEGISLATION FOR LIFE

Exodus 21:12-32 // August 31, 2025 AM

I. Those guilty of *destroying* human life must be justly punished (vv. 12-17, 20, 28-32).

II. Those guilty of *damaging* human life must be justly punished (vv. 18-19, 21-27).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is a “culture of death”? Is our culture one? Why, or why not?
2. What is capital punishment? Why does a society that prizes life uphold capital punishment?
3. How do the laws about mistreatment of parents (vv. 15 and 17), as well as the law about kidnapping and enslaving (v. 16), relate to the destruction of human life?
4. When compared to other ancient law codes, what are some surprising elements about the laws God is here giving to Israel?
5. If human life is damaged but not destroyed, should it result in the death penalty?
6. What is “the law of the tooth”? Who is to carry it out?
7. Why is it not possibly to really believe the gospel without valuing human life from the womb to the tomb?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. What does the Bible teach about capital punishment? Does the biblical teaching make me uncomfortable? Why shouldn't it?
2. Reflect on Matthew 5:38-42. How am I prone to abuse the lex talionis like the religious leaders? How does Jesus set me straight without critiquing the law itself?
3. How might I explain to an unbelieving friend the incalculable value of human life as it is displayed in the incarnation and cross of Christ?