

The Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Created in the Image of God
012101

I Introduction

- 1 It is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 2 It was the idea of Dr Harold Brown, Rev. Billy Graham, the late Dr. Francis Schaeffer, and Dr. C. Everett Koop
- 3 It is a day set aside for prayer and contemplation of the immense value of life
- 4 It has been celebrated by churches around this country for nearly two decades during the anniversary month of the Roe vs Wade decision
- 5 It is a day that I am torn between two things that I feel strongly about
 - a The lives of unborn children
 - b The lives of those who are dealing with the trauma and guilt of abortion
- 6 It is a day in which God's Word calls me to say with conviction abortion is morally wrong
- 7 It is also a day in which scripture requires me to say with compassion God forgives and heals us from the wounds of our sins

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God Micah 6:8 Ephesians 4:15

 - a A women faced with a crisis pregnancy experiences tremendous fear and anxiety
 - b She seeks a fast solution to her dilemma
 - c Since abortion is legally and socially acceptable it is the choice she is most likely to make even if she has moral reservations
 - d Afterwards there is a sense of relief because the crisis is over
 - e Eventually the moral struggle resurfaces or her moral perspective changes and she is again faced with the issue
 - f Researchers have discovered that abortion can be responsible for long term emotional problems in a women's life. PAS
 - ◆ The inability to process fear, anxiety anger, sadness and guilt surrounding her abortion experience
 - ◆ The inability to grieve the loss of the baby
 - ◆ The inability to come to peace with God, and others involved in the abortion decision
- 8 Our job is to "Heal the broken hearted" Lk 4:18

II Why address the issue of abortion?

A Because it is an issue in our culture

- 1 It is the most controversial of our time
- 2 It involves a clash between two fundamental American values: love of personal freedom and respect for human life

B Scripture says that we are salt of the earth

Mt 5:13

- 1 Tech improvement....ethical degeneration
- 2 Man infected with deadly virus called sin
- 3 Evil men grow worse and worse 2 Tim 3:13
 - a 1/4 babies conceived in the US is aborted
 - b In 14 metropolitan areas, abortions out number births
 - c More than 32 million abortions have occurred since 1973, over million a year
- 4 Church retards moral & spiritual degeneration
 - a We live in a society of pluralism and tolerance political correctness and bipartisanship
 - b It's almost a crime to disagree
 - c Those who hold Biblical values are persecuted and labeled as out of the mainstream
 - d Jesus was out of the mainstream too
Evil men will go from bad to worse....you continue in what you have learned...the Holy Scriptures 2 Tim 3:13,15

C Scripture encourages us to render special care to the poor and speak out on behalf of the powerless

- 1 "This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." Ja 1:27
- 2 "Rescue the weak and needy" Ps 82:4a
- 3 "Open your mouth for the dumb, For the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy." Prov 31:8-9
- 4 God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah to Johoiakim about his righteous father Josiah. "He pled the case of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know me"? Declares the Lord Jer 22:16

D Because there are a lot of hurting men and women sitting in church pews laden with guilt in need of healing

III Why Abortion is Wrong Luke 1- 2, Ps 139

A Because human life begins at conception

The Bible does not specifically deal with the subject of abortion but does prohibit the taking of innocent human life. If an unborn baby is simply cell/tissue then abortion is just a medical procedure. If the unborn is shown to be a human being we have the taking of innocent life which is prohibited by God

- 1 John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb Lk 1:15-17
 - a To be filled with HS requires humanity
 - b To have joy requires humanity v44
- 2 Mary was said to be with child before birth v31
 - a The same Greek word used to describe a born baby (brephos) is used to describe an unborn baby Lk 2:12 comp. 1:41
 - ◆ At conception human life is called zygote
 - ◆ At implantation – embryo
 - ◆ At two months – fetus
 - ◆ At birth – baby
 - ◆ At fifteen years – juvenile
 - ◆ At twenty-one years – adult
 - ◆ In all stages – human life
 - b Human life primarily consists of soul life which is immaterial
 - c How can a biological process create the immaterial soul?
 - d God alone grants soul life
The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being Gen 2:7 Jn 1:9
- 3 God knew David as a person while in the womb Ps 139 :13-16
 - a God forms our bodies v13b-15
 - ◆ Our brain has 10 million nerve cells to record what we see and hear
 - ◆ Our skin has 2 million tiny sweat glands to keep the body at an even temp
 - ◆ Our heart pumps our blood millions of miles a year
 - ◆ Our stomach contains 35 million glands secreting juices to digest food
 - b God creates our souls v13
 - ◆ David had identity and personality before birth v13
 - ◆ David had personhood before his body was formed v15a, 16a
 - c God ordains our future v16

- 4 God called Jeremiah to the prophetic ministry while in the womb
“Behold I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations Jer 1:5
“But it is He who had set me apart, even from my mother’s womb..” Gal 1:15

B Because we are made in the image of God

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Genesis 1:26

- 1 Since man is made in the image of God, his life is sacred
 - a Animal life is not sacred
 - b It is a federal offense to tamper with the nest of an eagle but legal to tamper with God’s creation in the womb
- 2 When people loose respect for the image of God they will loose respect for what is created in his image

IV What is our response?

- A Proclaim the image of God
- B Plead the case of the afflicted and needy (Pray, talk and vote)
- C Support loving pro life organizations with time and resources – DeMoss Foundation
- D Assist women with problem pregnancies
- E Advocate adoption
- F Model moral purity in our own life 1 Thess 4:1-8
 - 1 80% of abortions performed on unmarried women
 - 2 Moral laxity has caused the crisis of abortion on demand; moral resolve can help undo it.
- G Determine to be a place of healing and acceptance
I even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins Is 43:25

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