

# The Sanctity of Life

## I. The Sanctity of Life Defined

### A. God is the Author of life.

*Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

*1 Samuel 2:6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.*

*Job 12:10 In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.*

*Acts 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;*

The Bible teaches throughout that God is the ultimate author of life. God is involved in the very act of conception as well as the maintenance of life during one's allotted time on earth.

### B. God is the one who has the right to take life.

*1 Samuel 2:6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.*

*Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*

Although death is the result of sin, it is God who has the ultimate right to take life since he is the author of life. Whenever death does occur as a result of sin, it is God who allows that death to occur. Except in those cases where we are acting on God's behalf in matters of jurisprudence and just war, we are prohibited from taking life.

### C. God is the creator of even the handicapped.

*Exodus 4:11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?*

*John 9:2-3 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

Although birth defects are the result of sin, God is the one who allows those who have handicaps to be born. This appears to not be fair, but we must realize that we deserve nothing in the first place, so the very fact that we have life is a gift from God.

### D. Man is made in the image of God

*Genesis 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be [shed]: for in the image of God made he man.*

The basis of the death penalty for murder is the fact that man is made in the image of God. When a man kills some other man, it is a very attack on the person of God, who has imaged himself in a small way in man.

E. God requires the death penalty for murder

*Exodus 21:12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death.*

*Leviticus 24:17 And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death.*

F. When murderers are left unpunished, the land is defiled.

*Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.*

*Numbers 35:32-33 And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.*

*Psalms 106:37-38 Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.*

II. The Sanctity of Life Defiled

A. Murder

Violent deaths in America are twenty times that of Western Europe and forty times that of Japan. America is known as the most violent nation on earth.<sup>1</sup>

The chances of being murdered in a large American city is greater than the chances of dying in WWII as a soldier.

The average American teenager has been exposed to thousands of murders and deaths on TV. The shock is gone.

Hardly a day goes by without us hearing of someone who takes a gun and shoots innocent people, whether it is at a MacDonalds restaurant, or whether it is at a post office. We live in a society where rage runs deep, and with the availability of guns, it is easy to see why we have situations like this happening all the time.

B. Genocide

1. The "Final Solution."

This was Hitler's attempt to exterminate the Jews from Europe. Over 6 million Jews died under the Nazi occupation of Europe.<sup>2</sup>

2. Yugoslavia.

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael S. Horton, *The Law of Perfect Freedom*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1993), pp. 155-156.

<sup>2</sup> William L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, (New York: Simon and Shuster, 1960), pp. 963-974.

The Moslem/Christian war in Boznia is a cultural clash that goes back centuries. The hatred is so deep that only the complete extermination of one side or the other is acceptable to the parties involved.

3. Desert Storm.

Desert Storm thwarted Saddam Hussein's desire to control the Arab world and eventually push Israel into the sea. Saddam's great desire is to see the complete destruction of Israel and the death of every Jew he can get his hands on.

C. Euthanasia

Holland allows euthanasia by law. It is estimated that more people die at the hands of physicians than die of any other means.

One of Hitler's early programs to purge the Aryan race was the murder of the mentally ill and handicapped. In fact, they were some of the first to be sent to the extermination and concentration camps.

1. Handicapped

Many would have us kill the mentally handicapped as an example of humanitarianism. It is better to kill a severely handicapped person than it is to allow them to live.

Hitler exterminated the handicapped in order to purify the German people of "bad genes."

Interestingly enough, a law in California allows a child to sue a parent for "wrongful life."<sup>3</sup>

A person no longer has a right to live because they are a human, but because they can experience a certain quality of life.

Researchers who follow Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, say that she essentially agrees with the mindset of Hitler who desired to rid society of unwanted elements, such as blacks, gypsies, and Jews.

Nobel Laureate James Watson proposes that a baby should not be considered fit to live until after three days. If after three days the baby is healthy, he should be allowed to live. Otherwise, he should be killed.

Some proposals even consider that a person be at least several years old before they be considered human.

Joseph Fletcher suggests that a person must at least have a measurable I.Q. of 40 to be allowed to live.

2. Elderly and Terminally Ill

Dr. Jack Kevorkian has broken new ground in helping the terminally ill kill themselves. He has engineered "suicide machines" that allow a person to kill themselves painlessly.

---

<sup>3</sup> John F. MacArthur, *The Biblical View of Abortion - Part 1*, audio tape GC90-67 from Word of Grace Communications, 1992.

Many people of like mind are supporting the notion that a person should have the right to commit suicide when they can no longer function or are terminally ill or handicapped.

D. Abortion

1. Some Shocking Statistics<sup>4</sup>

2,000,000 babies a year are aborted in America.

1 out of every 3 children conceived are aborted.

Among teenage women, there are 736 abortions for every 1,000 births. Among married women, abortions exceed births.

Some say there is an abortion about every 15 seconds in America.

In many of the major hospitals in large cities, abortions far outnumber live births.

Planned Parenthood says that abortion is a means of preventing disease. Pregnancy is noted as a disease. Dr. Willard Kates has issued a paper entitled, "Abortion as Treatment of Unwanted Pregnancy, the Second Sexually Transmitted Disease."

Our nation, and other nations in the world, are wiping out an entire generation. It has been estimated that some 75,000,000 babies a year are murdered around the world. This is more than all the deaths in all the wars in history.

The IRS has jumped into the fray. Parents are entitled to a tax exemption if, after an attempted abortion, the child lives for any length of time.

A woman in Van Nuys killed a newborn baby in a bathroom after giving birth. Since the baby had been born, she is serving an eleven-year prison sentence. Had she obtained an abortion the day before, she would have had no problems. This is the stupidity of humanism.

Fetal tissues have been used in medical experiments. Interestly, President Clinton has supported the use of fetal tissue in research.

It is a \$1,000 fine for shipping a pregnant lobster. In Massachussetts there is an anti-cruelty law which makes it illegal to award a goldfish as a prize. The law states, "to protect the tendancy to dull humanitarian feelings, and corrupt morals of those who abuse them."

Abortion is a multi-billion dollar industry. One abortionist in California did \$9,000,000 a year by himself.

One of the issues faced by the current administration and which is straining the relationship with China is the forced abortion of a second child. This is the same administration that wants to legalize abortion and outlaw any protest against it.

Steps to the current attitudes about abortion:

---

<sup>4</sup> Abortion, GC90-67.

- 1). The sexual revolution - we want sex but not the consequences.
- 2). The deformities issue - allow eugenic abortions to eliminate birth-defect children.
- 3). Feminist movement - we want to be sexually free without consequences but we want to have a career. Babies get in the way. The only way women can be equal to men is if they can get away from their child-rearing responsibilities.
- 4). Population control advocates - said we would overpopulate the planet if we didn't do anything about population control.
- 5). Roe vs. Wade - on January 26, 1972, the Supreme Court deprived unborn children from the fourteenth amendment.

Some say that abortion benefits women.<sup>5</sup> Note the following:

- 1). Out of 8,000 abortions done in Bombay India, 7,999 were girls, one was a boy.
  - 2). In China, where a couple is allowed to have one child, if the child is a girl, it is usually aborted.
  - 3). In one study in the U.S., 29 out of 46 girls were aborted, only 1 out of 53 boys were aborted.
2. God required the death penalty for the killing of a fetus.

*Exodus 21:22-25 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

These verses teach the fact that according to OT law, an unborn child was considered to be alive. The particular incident in view here is that of two men struggling together where a woman with child interferes. If she goes into labor and the child is born and lives, the man who struggles with the woman's husband must pay a fine. If, however, the child is stillborn, then the man must pay with his life.

3. The Bible teaches life begins at conception.

*Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the [womb] I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

*Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for [joy].*

*Psalms 139:14-16 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My*

---

<sup>5</sup> John F. MacArthur, *The Biblical View of Abortion - Part 2*, audio tape GC90-68 from Word of Grace Communications, 1992.

*substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

The Bible makes no distinction between a fetus and a newly-born baby. Note that the Bible does not treat John the Baptist as a “blob,” but as a human being in every aspect.

The Planned Parenthood crowd would have us believe a fetus is to be considered life when it is viable. A couple of problems with this notion are:

1. Medical science has been pushing the age of viability earlier and earlier. It is possible for children born very early in the second trimester to live.
2. Any life form in the world, when removed from its proper environment, is not viable. Put an adult in the vacuum of space or underwater without breathing equipment, and they find that they are not viable at all.
3. It has been medically proven and supported that life begins at conception. All that a person will be is determined at the moment of conception when their full complement of chromosomes and genes are determined.
4. The ancient paganism of Moab and Ammon included children sacrificed to their pagan dieties.

*Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*

*Deuteronomy 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,*

*2 Kings 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

*2 Kings 21:6 And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

*Jeremiah 7:31 And they have built the high places of [Tophet], which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.*

#### E. Attitudes

*Matthew 5:21-22 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

The Bible also teaches that hatred against someone else is equivalent to murder. Why? Because the attitude of hate precedes the act of murder.

III. The Sanctity of Life Defended

- A. Refrain from “Bloodsport”
- B. Refrain from gossip and slander, which is a form of murder.
- C. Pray for our leaders so they may see the wickedness of abortion.
- D. Do our part to assist those who are contemplating abortion, both by exposing the facts about abortion and financially supporting alternatives to abortion.
- E. Pray for justice to be done in our nation, especially in our judicial system in regards to murder and manslaughter.