SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

SUNDAY 2020

PASTOR'S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE

A resource guide to help pastors easily and effectively defend unborn life and share the Gospel.
DEAR PASTOR,

Educating families on the value of life has never been more critical than it is today. Abortion in Oklahoma rose 12% in 2018 compared to 2017. This 12% increase led to a total of 5,014 children—more than all the children in the Ponca City school district—who were robbed of the opportunity to take their first breaths.

Many of the nation’s headlines this past year have revolved around abortion. From New York legalizing abortion through birth, to more conservative states enacting restrictive legislation, both sides have been vocal and active. These conflicting messages have caused many to question what they believe about life and why. The good news is together, we can seize this moment to speak out for the unborn. As ministers of the Gospel, we have a responsibility and a timely opportunity to affirm the truth of human life.

Sixty percent of women having abortions proclaim to be Christians. Many people, including Christians, tragically believe what the world teaches—it’s a blob of tissue, not a baby, so abortion is okay. What do your church members know and believe about life? Are they equipped to educate their children, from a young age, on the intrinsic value of life? Are your youth equipped to provide truthful and compassionate support to a friend with a pregnancy crisis?

We encourage you to make Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 19 a priority. By preaching on the issue, together we can dispel the lies and teach the truth of the precious value of life. Please utilize the resources we have assembled for that special day at www.OklahomaBaptists.org or www.OBHC.org/sanctity.

We also strongly encourage you to take part in the Rose Day Pro-Life Rally at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Wednesday, Feb. 5. This annual event presents an opportunity to plead with our lawmakers to enact life-affirming legislation. You and your church members can come to the Capitol at 9:30 a.m., with red roses as a symbol for life, and deliver a life-affirming message to lawmakers. At 11:30 a.m., in the House Chamber, an indoor rally takes place, in which we will hear from Abby Johnson and others. For more, visit www.roseday.life.

Thank you for participating in the 2020 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and Rose Day. Until that day when Christ returns and makes all things new (Rev. 21:4), we must take every opportunity to counteract a culture of death with the life-giving message of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Hance Dilbeck  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Oklahoma Baptists

Greg McNeece  
President  
Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children

SANCITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY • PASTOR’S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE

COMING Events

• SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY  
  January 19, 2020

• ROSE DAY - PRO-LIFE RALLY  
  February 5, 2020

Oklahoma State Capitol
www.OklahomaBaptists.org/life  
www.OBHC.org/sanctity

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ESTE SERMÓN ES PROVISTO EN ESPAÑOL
INTRODUCTION
Like many people around the world, you may have been glued to the news as the Ebola crisis unfolded in the summer of 2014. An Ebola particle is 80 nanometers wide, 1,000 nanometers long, and made up of only six proteins. But if one particle enters your body, it can latch onto a cell and quickly turn into an Ebola factory.

At the start of October 2014, there had been 9,200 cases and 4,500 death reported. It would finally end with 11,000 deaths. Researches took action when the epidemic started, and through their courageous acts, a vaccine was created. I’m thankful for people who take action.

THE PROMISE THREATENED
Early on in the Book of Genesis, God made a promise to Abraham, the man He called to obey Him and follow Him. God promised Abraham a people (a great nation) and land (the land of Canaan). Above all, God promised a “seed” from Abraham. A seed that would prove to be a blessing to all nations.

For four hundred years the promise had been under threat, so it is in our passage. Pharaoh enslaved the people of God and worked them ruthlessly. He made their lives bitter with hard service. Obviously, Pharaoh’s plan was to keep them beaten down, hoping this would keep them from multiplying.

However, his plan did not work. Pharaoh tells the Hebrew midwives to kill every baby boy (Ex. 1:15-16). But the midwives “feared God” – they were willing to defy the authority of Pharaoh to let the babies live.

THE PROMISE PROTECTED
Through their courageous act they did something for us. Because they rescued the babies, we have Moses, David, and Jesus. And now their names (Shiphrah and Puah) are remembered forever because they feared God and protected life.

Yes! This was an act of civil disobedience. Pharaoh gave the order and they disobeyed it. But this is what God’s people are always supposed to do when the laws of men contradict the laws of God.

Think about it! Their act of civil disobedience ultimately resulted in the nation being set free.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE HEBREW MIDSIVES?
1. God is to be feared
2. All life is sacred
3. Action must be taken

CONCLUSION
Much worse than the Ebola virus is abortion. Since the passing of Roe v. Wade there have been more than 50 million abortions performed in the United States. It’s time we have the hearts of Hebrew midwives and take action.

THE HEART OF A HEBREW MIDWIFE
SERMON FROM BLAKE GIDEON

DID YOU KNOW?
Annual abortions reported in Oklahoma have dropped from more than 12,000 in 1985 to less than 5,000 in 2013. In 2017, however, the abortion rate increased tragically.
SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

SERMON FROM TIM HARE

INTRODUCTION

January 22, 1973

• Our country declared abortion (the termination of an unborn child) a legal procedure
• “Sanctity of Human Life Sunday”
• Applies to more than just abortion...
  • Racism...
  • Suicide...
• Our primary focus will be on abortion for this reason:
One day in the future people will look back on our times and see that the greatest genocide that had ever taken place, was committed through abortion. Indeed, if one looks at the lives lost in America through the means of abortion, they would conclude that Americans allowed a holocaust to occur in their own back yard. That is far more deadly than the Nazi and Russian holocausts combined.

Listen to some of these stats:
• It’s estimated that 19% of every pregnancy ends in an abortion
• 3 leading reasons for abortions
  » 19% - Finishing having children
  » 23% - Can’t afford a baby
  » 25% - Not ready for a child
  » <0.5% - Victim of rape
• It’s estimated that every 26 seconds a child loses their life to abortion, which means by the time I’m through preaching this sermon approximately 70 children will have been murdered.
• It’s estimated that nearly 1 million abortions occurred in the year 2016
• From the Revolutionary War — to the War on Terror in 2012, there have been approximately 1.2 million lives lost in all of the wars with which the U.S. has been involved... From 1973 (since abortion became legal through Roe v. Wade) to 2011 nearly 53 million abortions occurred.

So, today I want us to consider the importance of life and how we as believers can respond to arguably the worst tragedy in human history.

LIFE BEGINS AT THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION

SCIENTIFIC POSITION: (FROM ABORT73.COM)

• At the moment of fertilization (or conception), a new and unique human being comes into existence with its own distinct genetic code. Twenty-three chromosomes from the mother and twenty-three chromosomes from the father combine to result in a brand-new and totally unique genetic combination. Whereas the heart, lungs, and hair of a woman all share the same genetic code, her unborn child, from the moment of fertilization, has a separate genetic code that is all its own. There is enough information in this tiny zygote to control human growth and development for the rest of its life.

• By the end of the third week of pregnancy, approximately 21 days after fertilization and 8 days after first taking shape, the heart starts beating. Over the next four days, the heart will settle into its regular rhythm and will start pumping blood throughout the embryo’s newly-formed blood vessels. It will continue to do so for an entire lifetime and will have beaten roughly 54 million times before the baby is even born. The kidneys, at this point, are preparing for urine production, eye “bulges” become visible, and the brain begins dividing into three primary sections: forebrain, midbrain, and hindbrain. The arms and legs are also taking shape. Around day 26, arm buds are visible. By the 28th day, it is possible to distinguish between the upper and lower arm. The embryo is now surrounded and protected by the amniotic sac and is actually starting to produce the necessary cells for producing the eggs or sperm necessary for their own reproductive future.

• By the sixth week, the brain emits measurable brain impulses. Primitive brain waves have been recorded as early as six weeks and 2 days. Small bodily movements can be observed at this time, initially affecting the entire body but gradually becoming more specific. The embryo responds reflexively to stimulus and may be able to feel pain.

• Doctors who have done abortions have seen the baby move and flinch when the abortion is taking place. Why? Because it hurts them.

• By the eighth week of pregnancy, every organ is present and in place. The embryonic period is now over. Ninety percent of the structures found in an adult human being can be found in this tiny embryo (now called a fetus) which is only about an inch and a half long. The brain accounts for almost half of the body’s total weight and 75% of 8-week fetuses demonstrate right-hand dominance. Intermittent breathing motions (though there is no air present in the uterus) occur and male testes are releasing testosterone.

• Now these are the scientific facts about life and when life begins. These are biological arguments for the sanctity of human life.

Now let’s look at the biblical arguments...

BIBLICAL POSITION

• Psalm 139:13-16: Read text and explain context
  » Look at some of those phrases:
    » “You formed my inward parts”
    » “You knitted me together”
    » “Intricately woven”
    » “Your eye saw my unformed substance”
    » Do you hear these words?
      » Every single life is intricately created and formed by God, Himself. He knows everything about us before we even exist.

• Now listen to what else the Bible makes reference to in regard to life inside the womb:
  » In Judges 13:3-5, an angel comes to the mother of Samson and says:
    » “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son.”
  » Samson is set apart for the Lord, and is seen as a person before he is even conceived.

• Thank about the Gospel of Luke. An angel comes to Mary and tells her that she is going to give birth. And after the angel departs, listen to what it says in Luke 1:39-42:
  » Vs. 39 in those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, vs. 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Vs. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, vs. 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!”

  » It says early in the text that Elizabeth is 6 months pregnant.
  » And yet, people try to argue that babies up to 6 months old in the womb are not human beings, which is why abortion is legal up to 24 weeks (or 6 months)...

2. LIFE BELONGS TO GOD

READ MARK 12:13-17

• So if the coin, which bore the image of Caesar, belonged to Caesar, then the question we must ask is what does the image of God? That is what Jesus is getting at in this text. Who bears the image of God? And what should this remind us off?

• Read Genesis 1:26-27

• What Jesus is saying in Mark is give the coin, that has Caesar’s image on it, to Caesar, but your life, which is the image of God, belongs to God! So the implication is this:

• Nobody owns their own life:
  » God owns every life that has ever been conceived.
  » If we truly believe this then

• This means that any offense made against any individual, is a direct offense to God. 
  » Every abortion is a direct offense to God 
  » The mother doesn’t own that child; she doesn’t own even her own life.
  » Any attempt to harm an image bearer of God is a direct offense against the Image Maker!

Because life and everything in your life belongs to God

3. LIFE MUST BE DEFENDED

PROVERBS 24:11-12

• Think about these verses in context of our current situation
  » v. 11 - Over $5 million helpless children have
HOW DO BELIEVERS RESPOND? (Ben Watson)

1. BELIEVERS MUST REMEMBER THERE IS GRACE IN CHRIST

• Maybe some of you in this room have had an abortion. Or maybe some of you have encouraged someone to have an abortion. I want you to know that grace and mercy is found in Christ. I want you to understand what you have done, and I want you to repent and turn from your sinful actions, but then I want you to look to the cross. Look to Jesus.

• Listen to what it says in Romans 8:1-2:
  • There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

• If you are in Christ then God does not condemn you.

• Which means forgiveness can be found for the one who is guilty of abortion.

• If you are guilty of harming an unborn life, or if you are guilty of harming any kind of human life with your actions or your words (racist…, bully…, suicidal… etc.) then repent of your sins, turn from your wicked ways, and look to Jesus.

2. BELIEVERS MUST CONSIDER ADOPTION

• About 74% of women said that their reasoning for having an abortion was because it would dramatically change their life or they didn’t have the means to provide for the baby.

• This is where there needs to be families lined up saying, “We will adopt your child! We will provide everything your child needs!”

• Now why should we consider doing this? Yes, we should do it because we stand for life. That’s absolutely true! But there’s something more! We should consider adoption because we have been adopted!

• Read Romans 8:14-15
  • You see, out of God’s love He chose us to be His sons and daughters. He adopted us out of darkness, out from our sin, and He gave us a new life. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:21:

• Vs. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come.

• And this is the picture that is seen in adoption. When a pregnant mother who intends to abort her child is convinced to give her child up for adoption to a family who will love and care for that child, that family is taking that child out of death, and is giving him life!

• So consider adoption!

3. BELIEVERS MUST BECOME ACTIVE CITIZENS

• Now, before I tell you what this means I want to first of all say this, “The hope for America and the hope for the whole world does not rest in the hands of a particular political party.” As one pastor said, “I am not paid by the Republican party… I don’t have a Republican party agenda…” He said, “I’ve got my guy.” And, may I add that the guy’s name is not Trump or Obama or Huckabee or Cruz. They are not the savior of the world, nor are they the savior of America.

• And let’s just be clear, America is not the hope of the world. America has come, and one day it will go, and it will be no more! But the kingdom of God lasts forever! And its King, King Jesus, is the hope of the world.

• Now, with that said I believe that God has been abundantly gracious to this country and by God’s grace we live in a country by which the citizens have a say in the direction of the country.

• So what does it mean to be active citizens?

• It means you have an obligation to vote

• It means you need to be actively praying for and engaging with our governing leaders.

• 1 Timothy 2:1-2

• First of all. Then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

• Nero was the Emperor of Rome at that time

• Rom. 13:1

• Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God.

• So, we need to be praying for, encouraging, and respecting our governing authorities, not because we agree with all of their policies or their conduct, but because they are put in authority by God Himself.

• SPEAK ABOUT ROSE DAY

• It means that you need to be supporting the agencies that are supporting life.

• With a quick Google search you can find organizations and centers all over our state that are committed to helping the unborn AND the mother before, during, and after the birth of the child. These centers seek to be a source of comfort and education to women who have found themselves unintendedly pregnant. They educate women on what actually happens during an abortion and they inform them of the consequences.

• Most of these centers are volunteer based… so think about what you can do

• Volunteer once a month

• Make monetary donations

• Send letters of encouragement

4. BELIEVERS MUST BE ADVOCATES FOR THOSE WHO FEEL HELPLESS

• Are you a parent whose daughter unintentionally got pregnant? The most unchristian thing you can do is turn your back on her. As a church, the worst thing we can do is turn our backs on those who are in desperate need of comfort and guidance. Every one of us needs to be a source of love and support to those who need help. This does not mean that we just sweep everything under the rug. No, we also need to hold our people accountable to God’s Word.

• What we need to do is be people of the Gospel. To someone who feels helpless because they made a poor life decision, we need to come alongside them and tell them, “You know what, you’re right. You made a poor decision and you are a sinner, but I am too! Thankfully, Jesus was not a sinner, and He paid the price for your sins. If you repent and believe in Him your sins, your poor decisions are forgiven!” We must support the helpless!  

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY • PASTOR’S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE  

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY • PASTOR’S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE
We are Pro-life, we value life because the Bible teaches us that human life is sacred. People are created in the image of God. Since 1973, the lives of more than 50 million babies have ended through abortion. 50 million is twice the population of Texas! People are created in the image of God, not worshipping; not working; deemed worthless; special to me because special to God.

WHY SANCTITY OF LIFE?
SERMON FROM D. HANCE DILBECK, JR.

Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This month, Churches all across our land will give focus to pro-life issues. Each February, Rose Day will come to our State Capitol. This is a rally to encourage our lawmakers to support pro-life legislation. This is important work.

We have made progress in Oklahoma.

• Hope Pregnancy Resource Centers, Oklahoma Baptist opened first in 1986, and today there are 40 evangelical centers… four abortion facilities
• Legislative advances to restrict abortion
• 30 years decline from 12,000 each year to 5,000, but abortion is on the rise in Oklahoma
• Still, the lives of 100 babies ended in the womb each week. It is important for us to remain active and vigilant. Abortion is shifting from a clinic to the drugstore… more accessible and convenient
• We want to make abortion Unthinkable, not merely Illegal
• The key for the future of our efforts for Life is to strengthen our biblical and theological foundation

WHY DO WE THINK ABORTION IS WRONG?
Genesis 1:26-28; 5:1-2; 9:6

Note: Strong forces in our culture contradict and reject every significant truth claim on page one of Bible. (coincidence?)

• God created and blessed (purpose and power)
• Gender is God-given and good
• Marriage covenant of one man and one woman is the building block society
• People, human beings, are sacred

READ
People are Created in the Image of God

• Worship – Designed with a capacity to know and love God and His family
• Work – Designed with a capacity to served God’s purpose. To rule of the created order
Ps. 8 – Crowned with glory; worship & work
• Worth – People have a God-given value
• Sanctity = Sacred… Holy (set apart) Special to me because special to God

Since 1973, the lives of more than 50 million babies have ended through abortion. 50 million is twice the population of Texas!

• People, Created in the Image of God, not worshipping; Not working; Deemed worthless
• We are Pro-life, we value life because the Bible teaches us that human life is sacred. People are created in the image of God.

I have been preaching to the choir (saying what I know most here already believe) I know that you understand “created in the image of God” because I have been watching you:

• Raising grandchildren; Providing faster care;
• Writing term papers and editorials; Introducing legislation
• Bringing babies into this world against medical advice

If we would be more effective in making abortion unthinkable, actually influencing the public mind; we need to be very careful to remove any plank from our own eye. To be even more critical of ourselves than we are of the culture.

The Sanctity of Life movement is vulnerable to a lack of consistency that some would call a lack of integrity, even hypocrisy. Will we have ears to hear?

ALL HUMAN LIVES ARE SACRED, NOT MERELY SOME.

Exp – We do not value the unborn because they are cute, not even because they are innocent; They are human beings.

If we would be more effective in making abortion unthinkable, actually influencing the public mind; we need to be very careful to remove any plank from our own eye. To be even more critical of ourselves than we are of the culture.

The Sanctity of Life movement is vulnerable to a lack of consistency that some would call a lack of integrity, even hypocrisy. Will we have ears to hear?

Application – Challenging, difficult public policy debates. In the midst, we must be mindful: That all human lives are sacred, not just some.

VALUE LIFE WITH ACTIONS, NOT MERELY WORDS.

Exp – More than any other attribute, a religious hypocrite is marked by words without deeds! Treat people like they are sacred.

Application – Today at our church, we are hosting 14 groups working to uphold the Sanctity of Life: Pregnancy counseling and support; Adoption services; Foster care; Advocacy… Stop by and volunteer.

You might be a hypocrite if…

Give People Grace and the Gospel. (Always, All People)

Exp – We need to be extending grace and offering the Gospel.

Sometimes our passion makes our voice harsh, hurtful.

• There is forgiveness with Jesus. Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.
• All sacred; All need to hear the Good News!

ILLUSTRATION - Worship; Work; Worth; Arms Up; Down and Out = CROSS

• Proof of Worth = Creation and Cross

PRAYER POINT

In 2016, a new abortion facility opened in Oklahoma City. Pray for an end to abortion in Oklahoma and across this land.
INTRODUCTION

Thank God that Mary was pro-life. I can’t even imagine what this world would be like, if Mary had been persuaded to visit the local baby removal center there in Bethlehem. After all, there she was, never known a man, but she found out she was pregnant. Espoused to Joseph and now she had to tell him that she was pregnant. In our text (chapter 1) Moses tells us when the new king of Egypt came into power, he saw the children of Israel as a threat. In verses 15 and 16, the midwives were to kill the males being born and save the female babies. Herein lies the problem, they forgot God is the God who is the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, so this brings me to my first thought.

IN OUR TEXT (chapter 1) Moses tells us when the new king of Egypt came into power, he saw the children of Israel as a threat. In verses 15 and 16, the midwives were to kill the males being born and save the female babies. Herein lies the problem, they forgot God is the God who is the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, so this brings me to my first thought.

FIRST, YOU CANNOT UNDO WHAT GOD HAS OR-DAINED—VERSE 17, 22.

The king has ordered the midwives to kill every Israelite male child being born in order to control the population. The enemy always wants to find a way to control you, so you can’t be blessed. He fills your mind with ungodly thoughts of shame and embarrassment. He causes you to think, “Well, I’ve messed up, so I may as well get rid of the evidence.”

I want you to know, when you consider abortion, you decide to play God. Just like the king, you decide who lives and who dies.

Actually, you are telling God, who created man and said it was good, that He needs to work on His creative skills because not everything was good. The king said if I can systematically control their birth rate, I’ll be able to stunt their growth. In today’s world, my brothers & sisters, we do it to ourselves.

From the pages of “Black Lives Matter” I read that 55 percent of African American women, ages 20-24, have 40 percent of all abortions, and 19 percent of them are teenagers. I also read that African American women are three times more likely to seek an abortion than Anglo American women, but as bad as that sounds, it’s not the worst. The book also says 53 percent of these women identify themselves as Christians. Your Bible says the devil is like a roaring lion, a liar, and a deceiver. The king has come up with a plan that is outside of the will of God. Try as he may, verse 20 says the midwives followed God and were blessed and the people multiplied and became mighty.

In the New Testament, Jesus summoned the children to Himself and said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” You can’t undo what God has ordained.

SECOND, GOD WILL ALWAYS MAKE A WAY TO ESCAPE THE PERSECUTION—VERSES 19, 20.

The abortion rate seems to greatly increase when the facts and figures are gathered from our less fortunate population. The truth is, the “well-to-do” are more often able to hide their abortion facts and figures then the “down and out.” The truth is, the “well to-do” are more often able to hide their abortion facts and figures then the “down and out.”

There are many things that affect who seeks an abortion in this day. Pregnancy as a result of rape is just as rampant now as it was in biblical days; pregnancy because of incest was declining, but now it’s on the rise again; and there are those who find themselves in a bad, unplanned situation.

Just as God made a way for the Israelites way back when, He will do it for you right now. The king commanded the midwives to kill all the new-born male children. Little did he know that God had already infiltrated His kingdom and planted some God-fearing women amongst the midwives.

I don’t know who this may be for, but God wants me to tell you; if you find yourself in trouble, just call on Him, and He will give you a way to escape. Proverbs 3:5 says, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding; in all thine ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.”

No matter what others say, trust the Lord; no matter what your friends say, trust the Lord. Remember that baby you may be carrying is a gift from God. Trust God to provide whatever you need. He will always provide you a way to escape the pressure and persecution of your peers.

THIRD, AND LASTLY, GIVE THE BABIES A CHANCE AND AVOID THE WRATH OF GOD.

Growing-ups were not born already grown up. The tract starts with a little embryo who, when kissed by the Holy Spirit, begins to grow, and at the appointed date in the fullness of time, that little blessing’s cry is heard. I don’t know how you feel about it but when I read verse 22, it caused my heart to bleed. I want you to come near as I close and use your Holy Ghost-powered imagination.

Can you hear Pharaoh as he gives the order that every male Israelite child was to be thrown into the river? Can you hear with your heart those mothers as they cry out for their children? So many children whose cries were never heard.

You may say, all of this is good, preacher, but my mind is made up; you just don’t understand what I am going through. Well let me ask you, what will you say when you stand before the judgment seat of the Lord and the child you condemned to death; the child whose heart had begun to beat; the child whose voice deserved to be heard is called to testify and says, “Lord I could have been the doctor who cured cancer, but I wasn’t given a chance; Or I could have been a teacher, but I wasn’t given a chance; or I could have been the evangelist who won thousands for the Body of Christ, but sadly I wasn’t given a chance.”

As you ponder what God would have you to do, I want to remind us that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ hung, bled and died on a hill called Calvary; so all of us would have the right to live life everlasting. Let me remind you of the gift of deliverance given when early Sunday morning Jesus rose from the grave with all power in His hands. He’s just waiting to hear your call. He’s just waiting to give hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless.

Finally, I just want you to know, Jesus Really Cares!
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday has been about the unborn. And rightly so.

Science and Faith are Not at Odds

(At conception) life in the womb is not mom, not dad, but NEW DNA.

- Heartbeat 4-6 weeks
- 8 weeks, recoil from pin prick
- 10 weeks, functioning organs

On the other side of abortion are real women, real situations, hopeless situations, helpless situations, difficult situations and many of them are carrying tremendous burdens (of the choice they made).


Do we value life like God does?

Psalm 82 shows how God values life.

V1 “God presides in the great assembly; He renders judgment among the ‘gods’:

V2 “How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked?”

Psalm 82:1 & 2 NIV

The text starts with God as judge (the scene opens up with God calling all other authorities together and He is about to give judgment). This is serious stuff.

“gods”?*v1 Those given the responsibility of representing God on earth and interpreting and applying His law.

(Jesus quotes Psalm 82:6 in John 10:34.)

Vs. 2: He is calling people out. (The text seems to indicate that the question is for those who know God). He seems to be speaking to people who know God’s heart but do nothing when it comes to justice. He is calling people out. (The text seems to indicate that the question is for those who know God).

He seems to be speaking to people who know God’s heart but do nothing when it comes to justice. To be perfectly clear, He is talking about those given the responsibility of representing God on earth and interpreting and applying His law.

Selah (an invitation to pause and contemplate what has just been said before God reveals what He desires of His people).

Verse 8

“God presides in the great assembly; He renders judgment among the ‘gods’:

And show partiality to the wicked?"

Psalm 82:1 & 2 NIV

Our nation prides itself on the justice system. Yet, today, there are 150 million orphans worldwide. 16,000 children die daily. (Children and grandchildren like yours). Count to 5 and 1 will have died. 12 per min, 720 per hour. Who is doing something about this?

3 billion survive on $2.50 or less daily. Where are the Christians?

21 million in slavery. (Describe the different kinds of slavery). Who is standing in the gap?

Since 1973 more than 60 million aborted in U.S. (Nearly 1 mil annually). Who speaks for the unborn?

The beef God has with His people is that He has a heart for justice, and He sees very little of it going on from His people, so He calls for justice.

Do something (through legislation, missions, organizations).

Be a voice for the voiceless.

Get in the fight!

#2 Rescue Someone (V4)

Not the government’s job to rescue but the job of the Church. James 1:27 (We can’t do all, but all can do something).

The Starfish

I recently read about an old man, walking the beach at dawn, who noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Catching up with the youth, he asked what he was doing. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. “But the beach goes on for miles and miles, and there are millions of starfish,” countered the man. “How can your effort make any difference?” The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. “It makes a difference to this one.” Who is the “one” you are making a difference in?

#1 Give Justice (V3)

“God presides in the great assembly; He renders judgment among the ‘gods’:

And show partiality to the wicked?"

Psalm 82:1 & 2 NIV

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Ways You Can Make a Difference

- Adoption/Foster
- Support adoption/foster families
- Compassion International
- Serve as a mentor through a local school
- Adopt a “grandparent” at a local retirement home
- Volunteer at Hope Pregnancy

(Nota self: speak encouragingly to women who have had an abortion. There are many in church today who are carrying a tremendous amount of guilt and shame because of their past. “I can only imagine how you feel” (describe the pain and regret they must be going through even years after the abortion). When your hurt and the Healer collide, the Healer wins every time.

No one knows the hurt like you (those who have gone through an abortion in the past). You have the greatest voice for the unborn if you are willing to use it.

Let God Use You to Rescue Someone Else and Feel the Joy as Your Soul is Set Free.

#3 Show the Gospel (V5)

The point of #1 and #2 is to get to POINT #3.

How are 10,000 Oklahoma kids (rounded up) in DHS going to know Jesus if we do nothing?

How will their parents know Jesus if we do nothing?

They walk in darkness (like the text says). How will they see the light?

Personal Adoption Story

My wife and I have adopted 2 girls. Kathryn (3) has special needs and Emerson (2) is her biological sister. There are certain things they will never know. They will never know what it is like to have a parent abuse them. They will never know what it is like to be neglected. They will never know what it is like to go hungry or be afraid of me as a father. They will never know what it is like to have a parent abandon them.

They have been adopted. Girls who were not my daughters now have the right to be called my daughters, just like my 3 biological kids. They have been brought into the family. Just like we have been adopted into God’s family (Ephesians 1).

We have the right to be called sons and daughters because of Jesus (explain the Gospel).

Every time we give justice and every time we rescue the needy, we show the gospel like no other time.

David Platt: “We care for orphans not because we are rescuers, but because we are rescued.”

We are invited into God’s story and it is in His story of redemption that we experience real life and real joy.

Verse 8

God’s Kingdom is advancing. (Is it advancing through you?)

Let’s Do Our Part to Stand for Life.

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5 humannightsfirst.org
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8 oklahomafosters.com
WHAT'S WRONG WITH... Abortion

SERMON FROM NICK GARLAND

INTRODUCTION
A. Perhaps no other issue has been more divisive
B. Ironically, there are church leaders on both sides
C. Seemingly, it would be clear –
   1. 1973 – Roe vs. Wade passed
   2. Since then, 60+ million abortions
D. Need to get a grip on scope and state of abortion (use current stats on abortion in US).
   www.guttmacher.org/united-states/abortion
E. So, what's wrong with abortion?

I. GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE
A. Scriptures
   1. Gen. 1:26 – man created in God's image – given command to rule (have dominion)
   2. Gen. 2:7 – formed from dust ("of the earth"); breath of God
   4. Ps. 139:13-18
B. When one destroys life –
   1. That person stands against the plan of God – Gen. 9:6
      If a man stands:
      a) Against his boss & against the rules of the company, he is fired.
      b) Against the laws of land, he is imprisoned.
      c) Against the instruction of professor, he will fail the class.
   What if a man stands against God?
   2. Abortion cheapens the purpose for a life –
      a) God made us in His image – elevates “self-worth” – humanistic evolution theory destroys “worth” by leaving out the Creator God.
      PETA – concerned about killing chickens or starving dogs!
      USA is not burdened about murdering infants "in the womb"…only a criminal act if a child is killed "outside" of the womb.
      b) The Evolution “theory” is now the policy of Government and Schools… why?
      c) If there is no Creator, there is no Creator to whom we are accountable.
   d) Life has no ultimate, present, or eternal purpose.
   3. The value of life is diminished for elderly when abortion of infants is taught.
   4. We are witnessing more and more discussion about “assisted suicide” and euthanasia.
   5. Lack of respect for life at birth works as an encouragement to young people wanting to “dump” a new born in the trash when it is unwanted at birth.

II. GOD SET MEN APART FROM BEFORE BIRTH
A. Biblical “moms” saw children as a “gift”.
   Jochebed – birthed Moses even though the Pharaoh said “kill” the male babies.
   Sara – birthed at 90. The statistics were "absolutely" against her having a baby at all!
   Mary, mother of Jesus – did not abort to save “face.” She endured the shame knowing that destiny of the babe in her womb.
B. Godly men – set apart from womb

III. GOD'S CREATION – IS DESTROYED BY ABORTION
A. When we have “made” something, we are defensive and protective.
B. What if you gave me a “picture” that you painted
   1. I added mustache, goofy teeth, eyes, etc.
   2. Wadded it up and left it marred.
   3. Tore it up and threw it away.
      Would you say, “It's just a picture…!”
      Likely not!
C. Abortion may be legal, but it is not morally right.
   1. Laws come and go – God's laws are forever.
   2. Our culture has legalized many things – liquor, gambling, porn, prostitution, same-sex marriage, and abortion – that does NOT make them morally right.

IV. GOD NEVER CHANGES
A. I Peter 1:15 – Be holy because I am holy – righteous people do righteous things.
B. If one has had an abortion, they need to be reminded that God is always ready to forgive – I John 1:9.
C. God rewards righteousness, which is why all Christ-followers should stand for life and seek to eliminate abortions in America. Deut. 7:9, “His reward to 1,000 generations.”

Miracle of Development -

- At 4 weeks, a baby is the size of a poppy seed
- At 5 weeks, the tiny heart begins to beat and the body is the size of a sesame seed
- At 6 weeks, facial features are beginning to form
- At 8 weeks, arms and legs are growing as well as developing fingers, nose and upper lip
- At 9 weeks, eyes have developed and sense of smell begins to develop
- At 11 weeks, the baby is almost fully formed and bones are beginning to harden
- At 12 weeks, you can hear the baby's heartbeat
- At 14 weeks, the baby can make facial expressions and may have discovered thumb-sucking
- At 19 weeks, the baby can hear sounds from the outside of the womb
- At 23 weeks, the baby’s sense of movement has developed
- At 24 weeks, the taste buds are developing and the brain is growing quickly
- At 27 weeks, the baby can open and close its eyes
- At 28 weeks, the baby may be dreaming. It weighs about 2 ½ pounds and is about 15” long
- At 32 weeks, has grown fingernails and toenails
- At 37 weeks, considered full term

DID YOU KNOW?
Oklahoma features more than 40 faith-based pregnancy resource centers.
1. We will be consumed by guilt and darkness. Two gospel-less ditches: grace, we will be consumed by at least one of two forces of start here and we forget that we are sinners being saved by death. We never outgrow the Gospel! EVER! If we don’t 
somed from slavery to sin, because Jesus died in the place guilt-freeing joy and grace-producing humility of being ran-

On Twitter, Eric Johnson reminded me: “How quickly we for-

But first, let’s frame life in the context of the Gospel by saying clearly and emphatically:

WE MUST HAVE STRONG BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SIN AND GRACE IN A VERY CONFUSING, UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD WITH A LOT OF INJUSTICE.

On Twitter, Eric Johnson reminded me: “How quickly we for-

INTRODUCTION:

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY • PASTOR’S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE

MISSION FOR THE UNBORN

SERMON FROM BRENT PRENTICE

There are a number of videos on the Internet in which one person is being beat up and pummeled while a couple of other people, or even a crowd, is standing around watching. Have you seen these videos? If you saw a mother being beaten, with her two-year-old watching, what would you feel? What would you do? Many did nothing! This paralysis in regard to injustice is happening in the world today in many ways. Today, we are going to dive head-first into an issue about a horrible and tragic injustice that many are idly watching or all-together ignoring.

The world is not in alignment with God’s perfect will. (Though God continues to advance His Kingdom and bring about His per-

• Two sons in Broken Arrow ruthlessly murdered several in their family.

So, I plead with you, Christian, let God’s grace humble you 

get messy, serve and sacrifice – that’s how you help 
sinning, dying and hurting people!

So, I plead with you, Christian, let God’s grace humble you 

On Twitter, Eric Johnson reminded me: “How quickly we for-

We will be consumed by guilt and we will live in the shadows, away from a nourishing Christian community, and we will not bear the fruit of amazing grace. Don’t let someone else condemn you for a sin or sins that Jesus has acquit-

applied, I plead with you, not-yet-surrendered person, surrender to God by trusting all of you, to all of Him!

God’s grace through Christ alone is more than enough for 

1. We will be consumed by guilt and we will live in the shadows, away from a nourishing Christian community, and we will not bear the fruit of amazing grace. Don’t let someone else condemn you for a sin or sins that Jesus has acquit-

2. We will be consumed by self-righteousness. We will only condemn the faults and sins we see in others – and 

In April 1945, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the allies 

DID YOU KNOW?

Rose Day, a pro-life rally held at the State Capitol, 

The release of the first video had a lot of back and forth in the media and here is some of what you may have heard to justify what was happening. I want you to be aware and conversant with common ways people rationalize the destruction of babies:

“It’s not a child, it’s a clump of cells.” Or, “It is not a person.”

WE MUST ALSO HAVE A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY THAT GOVERS ALL OF LIFE – BOTH THINKING AND LIVING. (A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW)

Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:7 teaches us that God is the Cre-

SAMUEL ROSE DAY • PASTOR’S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday • Pastor’s Preaching Guide/Information Resource

Be On Mission for the Unborn

Pro-life rally held at the State Capitol, celebrated its 28th anniversary in 2019.

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Sanctity of Human Life Sunday • Pastor’s Preaching Guide/Information Resource
proposing a system of morality that respects all human life instead of despising it. That should not be considered as threatening. Respect for life is nothing to be afraid of.”

And another ridiculous talking point: “These fetuses are not babies, children or persons, they are just clumps of cells.” To which I would respond: “That’s weird, because they strangely have limbs and organs that are used for ‘human research.’”

In other words, Planned Parenthood wants to use these “clumps of cells” for human research, but they tell us they are not human – I am confused! Are they human, or aren’t they?

You may think it inappropriate what I have done this morning in exposing you to this – there are little children in the room – YES! You may say, “I don’t need to see that or hear that – it’s repulsive and sickening.” YES!

If we wish to help people and glorify God, we can’t ignore what is in front of us and we must be conversant with the talking points. We can’t turn a blind eye. We must see the horror of sin in a broken world – for if you don’t, how will you hear that – it’s repulsive and sickening.” YES!

What might we do?

SOME OF US ARE OVERWHELMED WITH WHAT TO DO, SO WE DON’T DO ANYTHING!

• Watch at least one of the Planned Parenthood videos. Make yourself look.

• Women and men get help. Get out from under the guilt and use your forgiveness to help others. Christian hip-hop artist, Lecrae, shared about how he began to heal when he confessed to taking a former girlfriend to get an abortion.

• Let’s be courageous honesty about what abortion is and does it, to him it is sin.”

James 4:17 – “To the one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

What we can do.

WE MUST BE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN WHAT WE ARE AGAINST, WE MUST BE KNOWN WHAT WE ARE FOR. WE MUST BE BOTH!

“YOU MAY CHOOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY, BUT YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN SAY YOU DID NOT KNOW.”

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

DID YOU KNOW?

President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation on January 16, 1984, designating Sunday, Jan. 22, 1984 as National Sanctity of Human Life Day, noting that it was the 11th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is nationally recognized on the third Sunday every January.

In 1970, when New York legalized abortion, Bernard Nathanson became the director of the largest freestanding abortion clinic in the world where he oversaw more than 75,000 abortions and performed almost 5,000, including one on his own child. In his autobiography, he confessed he felt nothing except a sense of accomplishment, after aborting his own child – after all, it was just a dump of cells. But ultrasound changed that and he became a pro-life Jewish atheist for a time, but through the impact of his Christian pro-life friends, he eventually became a disciple of Christ.

With Nathanson in mind, his friend Robert George wrote: “We in the pro-life movement have no enemies to destroy. Our weapons are chaste weapons of the spirit: truth and love. Our task is to defeat our opponents than to win them to the cause of life. To be sure, we must oppose the culture and politics of death resolutely and with a determination to win. But there is no one—no one—whose heart is so hard that he or she cannot be won over. Let us not lose faith in the power of our weapons to transform even the most resolute abortion advocates.”

No one is too far gone to be rescued by the grace of God. And no one who claims Christ should turn a blind eye.
**PERSONAL INTRODUCTION – (COULD BE READ AS A STORY)**

Life in every form, at any point, has a unique dignity attached to it that is endowed by our Creator. No matter the age, no matter how marred by the effects of sin in this world, human beings are created in the image of God. Caroline and I brought our third child into this world on August 5th. But I shudder as I write this to think of the world that we are bringing him into. I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there are people in this world who would have seen the 20 week sonogram of my son, the sonogram that revealed an imperfection, a cleft, in my son’s lip and would have terminated his life. I shudder to think about the countless number of children who are aborted and abandoned because of some type of “imperfection.” I shudder as I hear and read the reports about Planned Parenthood over the last few months. I shudder to think that life can be treated so insensitively and carelessly in pursuit of the almighty dollar and “human choice.”

Caroline and I watched our son on the sonogram machine with joy and trepidation over the 20 weeks leading up to his birth. We watched our son grow. We watched him move. We watched him practice breathing. We listened to his heartbeat. The miracle of technology let us see the smallest details of his face before he was born. And we waited with a deep sense of hope and joy over the days leading up to his birth. On August 5th we waited for the doctor to bring our son into this world. And when he came, we noticed his lip, but that passed quickly. We found ourselves celebrating that new birth. And in those moments we were able to worship the God who gave him life.

Church, the same God who granted life and breath to our son, who imports His image to every human he creates, is still breathing life. He breathes it to new babies that might be marred by the sin of this world, and He will give breath and life to new creations that are definitely marred by the sin of this world. Through the blood of Christ, new life will come to all who believe. No evil decisions in this world, no human activity, however grotesque, will defeat the life giving blood of Jesus. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him. (Genesis 1:27 ESV)

**TODAY, I WANT TO ALLOW THE UNBORN TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOU….**

I want you to hear the voice of the unborn. I want you to hear them cry out about the injustice that is facing them. I want you to hear them cry out to you. Today, I want you to hear the words of David in Psalm 35 as the pleading cry of the one facing persecution and suffering. I want you to hear these words as the cry of the unborn child.

Read these words of David with me and hear the voice of the unborn.

Vs. 1 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! Vs. 2 Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help! Vs. 3 Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, “I am your salvation!”

Do you hear it? Do you hear the voice of the unborn? It is crying out with David that…

1. **GOD HAS A DEEP CARE AND CONCERN FOR US. 1-3**

David speaks to God from a deep sense of God’s care and concern for him. He asks God with confidence to take his side in this fight and to re-assure his soul of God’s care and concern for him. He asks God to fight for him. He knows that God will fight for those whom He cares for.

The unborn child has the same cry, God cares deeply about His children from the moment of conception, Scripture tells us that He knows us and has a deep concern for our life.

Vs. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. Vs. 14 I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. Vs. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Vs. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:13-16 ESV)

Church, Jesus was once an unborn child.

The Scriptures and the unborn cry to you. We have been created and formed by God in the womb of our mother. He has a deep concern and care for us. It was for us that Christ died the same as you. You teach your children songs that apply to us as well.

Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they’re all precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus cares for all the children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, They’re all precious in His sight. Jesus cares for all the children of the world.

Jesus came to save the children. All the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, They’re all precious in His sight. Jesus came to save the children of the world.

God cares deeply for us. Even when no one else does, God has a deep concern and care for us.

Do you hear them? Continue to listen for their voice as we continue in the text.

Vs. 4 Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me! Vs. 5 Let them be like chalk before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away! Vs. 6 Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them! Vs. 7 Far without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life. Vs. 8 Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him, let him fall into it—to his destruction! (Psalm 35:4-8 ESV)

The unborn cry out again along with David.

The unborn cry out along with David.

**2. GOD HAS A DEEP HATRED AND WRATH FOR THOSE WHO DO EVIL TO US. 4-8**

David prayed for his opponents to be put to shame and dishonor. He prayed that they may be driven back and for God to take vengeance upon those who bring violence against the servant of God. He prays for them to face destruction. His opponents, notice this, who had no cause, had set their faces against him. And he asks God to destroy them.

Is it ok to pray this type of prayer? I say, “absolutely.” Here are a couple of reasons from the ESV Study Bible as to why this prayer is not just ok, but is encouraged.

First of all, it is realistic. God’s protection of the faithful means that He must thwart the schemes of those who would harm them. Second, it is just, since the pursuers devise evil (v. 4), and without cause they hid their net for me (v. 7). Third, it takes God at His word. Finally, from all of this it is plain that the prayer is not a vindictive response to personal injury but an appeal based on faith.

David understood that God had a deep concern for his life and for his soul and has a deep willingness to protect his people. Out of this knowledge comes his cry for God to protect His people through action against those who hate and plot against His people.

The unborn cry out with David for those who work evil against them to be exposed in the light of what they are doing. And let the stark reality be stated that God cannot and will not tolerate this type of behavior toward His creation. Psalm 5 makes that very clear.

Vs. 4 For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. Vs. 5 The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. Vs. 6 You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. (Psalm 5:4-6 ESV)

God will not stand for His creation to be marred. He will execute judgment against those who perpetrate these crimes against His children.

We must take a moment here and let the weight of God’s wrath against all who would engage in these atrocities sink in, because it is against this backdrop that the forgiveness of the Gospel stands so clearly.

For there is no distinction: Vs. 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Vs. 24 and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24 ESV)

Even those who stand as enemies of Christ and enemies of the unborn can find grace in the blood of the cross.

Let us return to the words of David and hear the unborn continue to cry out. For these next few cries are some of the most powerful that they make.
3. WE ARE WEAK AND POWERLESS. 10
David describes himself as a poor and weak man, facing a strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the strong man.

4. WE ARE INNOCENT AND OPPOSED VIOLENTLY, 17, 19-21
Hear David's words, "Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions! Vs. 19 let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause. Vs. 20 For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit. Vs. 21 They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!" (Psalm 35:17-21 ESV)

5. GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US AND THEM. 22-26
Hear their words: You have seen. Awake and rouse yourself. Vindicate me. Let them let not rejoice. Let them be put to shame. Let them be clothed with shame.

6. GOD DELIGHTS IN THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR US. 27
David calls for those who are with him to delight themselves, in his standing before God. To essentially delight themselves in the God who will rescue David.

7. GIVE US A CHANCE TO GLORIFY THE LORD. 9, 18, 28
In this life, there is a truth at work here that I believe bears much truth for us. God delights in us, when we delight ourselves in Him. Psalm 147:11 makes this abundantly clear...
When you look at a baby, it becomes increasingly difficult to understand the statistics…

• 4-6 weeks - The heart begins beating
• 6 weeks - The diaphragm is formed, the heart and its four chambers are fully formed. The first brain waves are detected.
• 7 weeks - Hands, feet, arms, legs, and all major organs are detectable. At seven weeks, it is possible for a baby to get the hicups. Isn’t that the sweetest thing in the world?
• 8 Weeks - Most major body systems are in place. The brain is highly complex and right or left-handed dominance is detectable.
• 9 weeks – The baby sucks his or her thumb
• 10 weeks – The baby has fingerprints. The very thing that distinguishes one human being from another human being is detectable at 10 weeks.
• 12 weeks – The baby has taste buds. Females exhibit rapid jaw movements that surpass their male counterparts. You know what, that never stops either. Just joking!

52% OF ALL ABORTIONS TERMINATE THE LIFE OF THE CHILD BY THIS TIME…

Since 1973, the entire population of Oklahoma would be aborted 16 times! Yet, if you crack the egg of a bald eagle in the US, according to federal law, you will spend 1-2 years in prison.

Carlos Fiorina was right when she, in the past, spoke to this in the Republican Presidential debates, “this is more than a political issue, it is about the character of our nation,” and we should take it a step further. It is about honoring the Creator of the universe— who is the Giver of Life, and to whom we will one day give an account.

We are not of this world. We do not ultimately answer to the rulers of this world, we ultimately answer to the King of Kings, and He determines how we look at the issues of this culture.

Now, we don’t know exactly when David wrote it, but there might be a few occasions to consider: When He said, “How precious are your thoughts to me O God, How great are the sum of them.” Might be one. David had united the kingdom, defeated all the enemies, and had settled down as king of a now peaceful nation. But the God who had delivered him all these years was still in a ragged old tent… David was inspired to build a temple to match the greatness of God – And defeated all the enemies, and had settled down as king of a now peaceful nation.

Might be one. David had united the kingdom, defeated all the enemies, and had settled down as king of a now peaceful nation. But the God who had delivered him all these years was still in a ragged old tent… David was inspired to build a temple to match the greatness of God – And defeated all the enemies, and had settled down as king of a now peaceful nation.

According to the standards of God’s kingdom… we find value in human life that we see nowhere else. In God’s Kingdom, Not only do black lives matter, every life matters… Red and yellow, black and white, they are all precious in His sight.

Does your life matter? Psalm 139 responds with a resounding YES! The Psalm is divided into 4 stanzas of 6 verses each in our text. It is a combination hymn, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, meditation and prayer. Some form of the word “know” permeates the passage, occurring 6 times in vs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 14 and 23. King David gushes with the reality that God knows everything (vs. 1-6), that God is everywhere (vs. 7-12), that God can do anything (vs. 13-18) and that God deals with everyone. (vs. 19-24)

As a follower of Christ no longer of this world, I have to look at the issues of this world through the lens of God’s perspective. Here, I come to realize every life matters, and therefore your life matters, and my life matters.

SO, WHY DOES YOUR LIFE MATTER TO GOD? AND WHY SHOULD EVERY LIFE MATTER TO YOU?

1. BECAUSE EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS THE PRECIOUS WORK OF GOD.

Psalm 139:13–17 (ESV) For You formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.

Verse 13 begins with “For,” indicating that this section (vs. 13–18) explains the preceding two sections. It implies more than just a process set in motion or principles that he designed, but a personal Superintendence in that process.

Now, if you have the KJV you immediately run into trouble here… and you think those evil translations got it wrong… yours says “he possesses my reins.”

(1) the kidneys, reins. Exod. 29:13, 22; job 16:13; “the fat of the kidneys of rams,” Isa. 34:6; comp. Deu. 32:14. (In Medical terms, renalis [rēn′al], or pertaining to the kidneys or the surrounding regions.) Etymology: Late Latin rēnālis, equivalent to Latin rēn[ē]s kidneys 1650–60. My inner parts, and not just those parts, but the implication was there was so much more. The Hebrews associated the seat of emotion with these inward parts, often referring to the heart.

a. A good example of use, Psalm 7:9 (ESV) “Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may You establish the righteous—the you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!”

The first Oklahoma Baptist crisis pregnancy center opened in 1986.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday • Pastor’s Preaching Guide/Information Resource

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday • Pastor’s Preaching Guide/Information Resource
Psalm 139:16

Purpose from God

2. BECAUSE EVERY HUMAN LIFE HAS A DIVINE PURPOSE FROM GOD

Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Every life matters to God. Why? Because you and I, and every other human being is the precious work of His hands. Every life matters to God.

2. BECAUSE EVERY HUMAN LIFE HAS A DIVINE PURPOSE FROM GOD

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

He saw my embryo… This was not only reference to my formation at conception, but my conception and embryonic state is proof that before I was in the hands of God, I was in the mind of God when He formed man from the dust of the earth. This was all before my days… in the dust of the earth. Isn’t that what Eph 2:10 tells us? “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (ESV)

Psalm 139:16 No life is an accident but part of the divine plan of God… formed for days, and purpose. My life actually matters to God!

According to Psalm 139:16, God beheld the psalmist’s ‘unformed substance’ as his golem. This seems to refer to the embryonic stage of human existence, before the fetus is fully formed, when development is incomplete or unfinished. It comes from a word meaning to wrap up and implies an enfolding or embracing. In much later rabbinic writings, well into the Christian era, this word would regularly be used to refer to the first stage of human life after conception. Later still, it would also gain notoriety as the name of a creature of Jewish folklore who is made out of mud and brought to life. This legendary figure has clear links both with the embryo and with the story of Adam. Like Adam, the golem is made from dust of the earth and given life. Like the human embryo, the golem is unfinished, relatively shapeless. The golem of folklore is a slavish monster, not created by God but made by man. It is not, like the embryo, a human-being-in-the-making. It is rather a mindless imitation or caricature of human life. In modern times, the golem has also given its name to the deformed creature in The Lord of the Rings who was once human but whose humanity was distorted by the influence of a malign ring of power. Here, Gollum is not a creature in the making but an unmade creature, not being-formed but de-formed.

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No life is an accident but part of the divine plan of God… formed for days, and purpose. My life actually matters to God!

One man described it this way… he talked about a sweater that hangs in his closet. He says he seldom wears it — it’s too small, the sleeves are too short, the shoulders too tight, some of the buttons are missing, the thread is frayed. Logically, he says, he should throw out that sweater since he has no use for it and will never wear it again. It simply takes up space in his closet.

What’s unusual about that sweater? To start with, it has no label, no tag telling you “Wash in cold water.” That’s because it wasn’t made in a factory, produced on an assembly line as the product of a nameless employee earning a living. Rather, it was the creation of a devoted mother expressing her love — his mother. That sweater is unique, one of a kind, irreplaceable. Each strand was chosen with care, each thread selected with affection.

And so, even if that sweater has lost all of its use, it has lost none of its value. It is valuable not because of its function, but because of its MAKER. So is each life.

We are reminded of this in Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.”

Psalm 90:12 “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Psalm 39:4 “Show me, LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days, let me know how fleeting my life is.”

What is our response? Praise! He had purpose for every life from before the world began… God has carefully designed every life with a functional purpose in mind, which He knew before the world began. In God’s kingdom, every human life has purpose. Every life matters to God.

Gary R. Plummer, President, Denver Seminary
TWO WEEKS OF Praying FOR LIFE

Day 1 | Pray that God would help women choose life in the midst of an unintended pregnancy.

Day 2 | Pray for the mothers who have had an abortion and are seeking the healing and peace that only God can offer.

Day 3 | Pray that God would protect children in the womb from those who would perform or encourage an abortion.

Day 4 | Pray that through the proclaiming of God’s Word more people would be persuaded to value life at every stage.

Day 5 | Pray that Christians would become involved with their local pregnancy resource ministry.

Day 6 | Pray that people would give generously to support pro-life ministries.

Day 7 | Pray for Godly wisdom and discernment for our legislators and judges as they hear multiple arguments, face many bills and feel political pressures that will affect the unborn.

Day 8 | Pray for people to place great value on God as being our Creator. For when we value God, we will value His creation.

Day 9 | Pray for the staff members and volunteers who work with abortion vulnerable mothers at pregnancy resource centers.

Day 10 | Pray for the fathers. Pray for God to change the heart of those who are encouraging a woman to get an abortion. Pray for those who are grieving over losing their child.

Day 11 | Pray that our churches will not accept complacency toward the atrocious act of abortion.

Day 12 | Pray for our pastors that they are bold and faithful to preach and teach God’s Word regarding the sanctity of human life.

Day 13 | Pray for the families who are longing to adopt a child.

Day 14 | Pray for an end to abortion in Oklahoma and across the nation.

TAKE ACTION FOR Life


2. Support your local Pregnancy Resource Center. There are more than 40 faith-based pregnancy resource centers across Oklahoma that help women and men choose life amid an unintended pregnancy. Look for ways to support these centers with your time and treasure. See www.pregnancynet.org.

3. Pray for an end to abortion. Since abortion was legalized, millions of unborn children have lost their lives to abortion. Oklahoma alone sees thousands of abortions each year. Pray daily that God would end abortion, and pray specifically that people would choose life until legalized abortion ends.

4. Attend Rose Day. At the Oklahoma State Capitol on the first Wednesday each February, join other pro-life Oklahomans at the annual Rose Day Pro-Life Indoor Rally. Find out more at www.roseday.life.

5. Promote foster care and adoption. Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children’s One Such Child foster care program can help you or your church make an impact for life through foster care.

For more information, visit www.OklahomaBaptists.org/life

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE Resources

WEBSITE LINKS

www.Psalm139Project.org  www.obhc.org/sanctity

BULLETIN INSERTS

www.bgco.org/insert

For a full pro-life video library, visit OklahomaBaptists.org/life

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