PASTOR'S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE



A Resource Guide to Help Pastors Easily and Effectively Defend Unborn Life and Share the Gospel

### Dear Pastor,

Every week, you are faithful to proclaim the Gospel as you preach God's Word. One particular biblical teaching that is vital is the Sanctity of Human Life—that life is valuable from the womb to the end of life, and that all people are made in God's image.

As pastor, you have a unique opportunity to help your church members become informed, to stand for life based on Scriptural principles, and to find ways to participate in key work, such as pregnancy resource ministry, foster care, and more.

That is why we are asking you, once again, to set aside Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 18, 2026, as a key time to lead your church in standing for life. Oklahoma Baptists and Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children have partnered once again to create Sanctity of Human Life Sunday resources for you and your church. At <u>oklahomabaptists.org/life</u>, you will find new Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Church Resources, including sample sermon outlines, videos, prayer points, and more.

This year's curriculum even includes a Sunday School/Small Group lesson designed for students, who are bombarded with misleading information about abortion. In addition to this Sunday, another opportunity to stand for life is by participating in the annual Rose Day Indoor Pro-Life Rally at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

Thank you for taking this opportunity to make a difference for the unborn. Thank you for all the ways you serve and lead.

**Dr. Todd Fisher** 

Executive Director-Treasurer
Oklahoma Baptists

Dr. James Swain

President

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children

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oklahomabaptists.org/life

## Fighting for LIfe

SERMON FROM RYAN SMITH

#### **SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:**

JOHN 1:4-5 GENESIS 1:28

MATTHEW 5:2-16 EPHESIANS 6:10-20

The opening lines of John's Gospel introduce us to the conquering glory of God the Son: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5).

Christ the Victor calls us to join in His pursuits. As Christ's soldiers in the fight for life, then, how might we assume we should posture ourselves for the battle? When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, His battle cry sounded different than we might think.

Matthew 5:2-16 records, "(Jesus) opened His mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'"

For those eagerly seeking to engage in battle, Jesus' words may seem underwhelming. After all, lives are at stake! Our enemy is fierce! Who has time to be meek or poor in spirit when our opponents are anything but?

To be truly effective in the fight for life, however, we must remember the directives of our Commander.

#### 1. WE MUST MOURN THE WAR. [V. 3-4]

There is significance to the fact that Jesus' call to His soldiers centers first on mourning, being poor in spirit, hungering and thirsting for God's will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Before we fight for life, we must mourn the necessity of the war. In the beginning, the God of life made all things in perfect harmony. God's order, design, and purpose contained no death. Humanity's joyful call was to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the Earth (Gen. 1:28). So what happened? Sin

happened—and it happened through us. As a result, we all carry a sin nature in opposition to God. Apart from the intervening work of God the Spirit, we are all slaves to this nature. Before we engage others in the fight for life, we must recognize first that we were all once agents of death. Humility in light of God's intervening work of grace must mark us first. As we look at the brokenness, death, and darkness around and within, we must become humble, contrite, and poor in spirit. We must mourn the war before we celebrate the victory.

#### 2. WE MUST FIGHT FOR THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST US. [V. 9-12]

The wounds of engagement in the fight for life are many. From name-calling to physical violence and everything in between, the weapons of the world strike deeply. How then do we fight for life against such a powerful, organized, and bloodthirsty enemy? Jesus says it's by enduring persecution. It's by being willing to take a punch and not offer one back. We most effectively advance in the war as we seek to make peace. How can we have such a posture against people who so brutally attack us? The Bible is clear in Ephesians 6:12, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." The pro-choice picketer is not our enemy. The social media warrior calling us fascists is not our enemy. The woman who thinks an online abortion pill is a viable option is not our enemy. They are people with souls who have bought a lie and need rescue from the same God who rescued us. Our fight then is not for these peoples' condemnation, but their rescue. As peacemakers, we fight not against people, but for them.

## 3. WE MUST USE THE WEAPON OF THE WORD, NOT THE WEAPONS OF THE WORLD. [V. 5-8]

What is our greatest weapon in the fight for life? It's not cunning or force. Our greatest weapon is the sword of truth. It is no mistake that in the famous Ephesians 6 passage on the armor of God, only one piece of equipment is an offensive weapon. That weapon is the sword of the Spirit. Those who are deceived need truth. Those who are in the dark need light. Truth is not found in our own ingenuity or intellect. Truth is found in God's Word alone. We are not calling people to trust and follow us or our words, we are calling people to trust and follow God and His. This is why the soldier carrying the sword of the Spirit must do so meekly, mercifully, and with pureness of heart. Meekness, mercy, and purity, however, don't mean weakness, modesty, and passivity. If the Word of God is true, we should carry it boldly and with confidence.

#### 4. WE MUST NOT RETREAT. [V. 13-16]

Recent events may tempt those fighting for life to cower in the shadows. Yet one cannot represent the God of light by hiding in darkness. As salt and light, God's people must not remove themselves from a culture of death, they must run to it. We must be willing to talk with those who disagree with us. We must be willing to listen to those who shout. When we stop talking and listening, we lose. When we think of other human beings as labels and not souls, we lose. When we fight back using the weapons of this world, we become no better than the world we are seeking to fight against. When we refuse to engage others with words of life, we concede the conversation to those who speak words of death.

As we have seen, fighting for life may get you killed. Do it anyway.

May we be encouraged that when we engage the fight for life the way Jesus, the source of life, taught us, we will be blessed. Only when we are willing to die for peace will we truly win the fight for life.

## **Back to the Beginning**

Genesis 2:7

SERMON FROM JAMES SWAIN

#### **SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:**

PSALM 127:3 GENESIS 3 JOHN 3

GENESIS 1:27 PSALM 148:13 1 CORINTHIANS 15:45

GENESIS 2:4, 7 EZEKIEL 37:5 JOHN 10:10

#### INTRO:

We often use words that I fear we don't understand. I heard about a little boy who ran into his grandmother's house and jumped in her lap while she was sitting in her chair and ask this question: Grandma, will you croak? Grandma was taken back by the question and asked her grandson for clarity. He said, "You know like a frog." To that she responded that she didn't think she had ever made that sound and didn't plan to. Amazingly, grandsons have great influence on their grandmas and after some coaxing she let out a croak that caused the little boy to laugh and laugh. The laughter was long enough and loud enough that the grandma thought there had to be more to his response than the noise she made. She asked, "Honey, why did you want me to croak?" He answered, "I heard mom tell dad that when you croaked, we were going to Disneyland." A classic example of a word not understood. One of those words is "sanctity." If you look it up, you will find reference to holy or sacred. You will also find these two words: ultimate importance.

### WHY IS LIFE OF ULTIMATE IMPORTANCE? YOU MIGHT SAY BECAUSE WE ONLY GET ONE.

It's ultimately what matters. You can replace possessions and positions but not people. Ultimately, I would propose, it is because life is a gift from God. One of the foundational passages that drives all the ministries of Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children (OBHC) is Psalm 127:3. It profoundly states that children are a gift from the Lord. Sadly, our world doesn't resonate with that. According to the National Right to Life website, in 2024 abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide with more than 45 million taking place. According to the Guttmacher Institute, there were more than one million abortions in the United States in 2024 which means since 1973 in our country more than 67 million babies have been aborted. It is the greatest tragedy of our generation. We live in a culture where children are abused and mistreated in every way. It breaks the heart of our heavenly father and should break ours. Children are abandoned and neglected and left for either others in their family or the state to care for. All these acts devalue the gift of God.

## ULTIMATELY, WE STAND UP FOR THE GIFT BECAUSE OF OUR WORSHIP OF THE GIVER.

To help in our understanding of the truth that life is of ultimate importance because it is a gift from God, I want to take us back to the beginning. I believe Genesis 2:7 is a foundational passage.

Genesis 2 is an integral part of the creation narrative of chapter one. I believe Genesis 2:4 is a key verse for understanding Genesis. The phrase the history or generations of the heavens and earth, when the Earth and heaven were made is important. One of two places in Scripture that the phrase is used that Earth proceeds heavens. The other is Psalm 148:13 that refers to the creation account. The phrase that begins verse four is one of 12 such in Genesis that all introduce and summarize an account and, except for 2:4, all involves a name. They are used to start or summarize an account. This time the account of creation. Of humanity. I believe they are part of the same event. That the narrative of Genesis 2 matches and completes Genesis 1:27. The Genesis 2 passages focuses on the detail of creation of man and woman. We see God's special provision for them because of His unique relationship to them. He is making them in His image. Mankind is the crown of His creation. We are recipients of the gift of life. Genesis 2:7 is the foundational verse for why life is of ultimate importance. It tells us that from the beginning life is:

#### 1. LIFE IS HUMBLE

Though mankind is special and unique in relation to God, he is still a creation of God. In a time of self-reliance some people have had a self-realization that's truly selfish. We are the creation, not the Creator. We are frail creatures of dust made from the earth. That connects us to it because ultimately, we were made from it. Adam was created from it and would be called to cultivate it and ultimately would come back to it. A significance that points to the future fall we find in chapter 3. The phrase, "Frail creatures of dust" is a symbol of our little intrinsic worth. It shows the low and humble origin of man. Not evil or nothing but plain and common. It would become a symbol of frustration in the fall, and the serpent would eat it. It is now a symbol of his defeat and humiliation. It becomes a picture of the future death that would come with the fall.

It has been attributed to Dr. Mayo, of Mayo Clinic fame, that if you wanted to make a human body it would take 58 pounds of oxygen, 50 quarts of water, 2 ounces of salt, 3 pounds of calcium, 24 pounds of carbon, a pinch of chlorine, phosphorus, fat, iron, sulfur, and glycerin. It sounds like a recipe but if we mixed it all together, we would have a mess. While all those elements are present our problem in the process is with how they are put together. A key word in verse 7 is formed. It is a picture of a potter that is shaping clay. It is an artistic, inventive activity that requires skill and planning. It is used to describe God's creative activity. Preeminently, His shaping skill of mankind whether it is from the dust or in a womb. While we are frail creatures of dust, we are fearfully and wonderfully made. It is reported that piece of human skin the size of postage stamp requires three million cells, a yard of blood vessels, four yards of nerves, 100 sweat glands, 15 oil glands, and 25 nerve endings. The Bible says that the Creator who spoke the world into existence formed man out of its dust. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! Our humble origin and frailty do not diminish value of our lives.

#### 2. LIFE IS HOLY

Man is more than a God shaped piece of earth. He has within him the gift of life given by God Himself! It is His divine breathing that brings life. In Ezekiel 37 the Lord set Ezekiel down in the middle of a valley of dry bones and asked him the question, "can these bones live?" Ezekiel answered that God knew. In Ezekiel 37:5 says the Lord would cause His breath to enter them and they would live. It is an interesting word that is translated into breath in Genesis 2:7. It is different than the word often translated spirit. It is a narrower or rarer term. It communicates much more than just the ability to breathe. It separates mankind from the plants and the animals. When God blew the breath of life into Adam's nostrils, it affirmed that God made him to be alive! This material substance needed immaterial breath. That shows us that life is holy!

Don't miss the picture. The animals are breathing but didn't start to breathe like this. It is the picture of God bending down into the dust of the Earth and forming Adam and breathing into him the breath of life. It implies a warm personal, face to face intimacy. God is not a divine, disengaged clockmaker who made man and stepped back, but a personal hands on Creator. He made man in His image, and He put breath of God into him. When Jesus encounters Nicodemus in John's Gospel chapter 3, He tells him he must be born again. Transformed by the Spirit of God! God gives new life through His Spirit, breathing into us as He once breathed into Adam in garden. Without it, will not see the Kingdom of God. Without it we will not be face to face with our Lord - There is a great old hymn that I grew up singing called Face to Face with Christ my Savior. The chorus of this great hymn says:

## "Face to face I shall behold Him, Far beyond the starry sky, Face to face in all His glory, I shall see Him by and by."

Adam saw his Creator face to face because He breathed the breath of life into him, and we will see our Savior face to face because of the gift of eternal life He has given to us.

#### 3. LIFE IS TO BE HONORED

The last phrase of Genesis 2:7 states that man became a living being. Literally, a living soul. That he was made, we are made in the image of God. That man is not only alive, but he knows it. He has become a supernatural being from natural creation. Mankind is a unity of body and soul. Adam knew where life had come from and that he had a responsibility to the God Who breathed life into him. We know that not only physical life depends on Him, but also that spiritual life comes from Him. He not only providentially gives us every breath we take but He is the only source of eternal life.

Scripture gives us this picture of two Adams in 1 Corinthians 15:45. The first Adam came into existence by breathing in the breath of God. He could not sustain himself and once sin entered the world, he immediately started to die. The second Adam, Jesus Christ, in contrast, is the One who breathes out. The first Adam could not live without the breath of God. We cannot have eternal life without the life-giving spirit of the second Adam. He took our place and paid our price that we might have everlasting life. The chorus I learned at camp says that I owed a debt I could not pay and needed someone to wash my sins away. Jesus paid the debt He did not owe for me and you to give us life.

We live physically because of the gift of life we cherish. We are called to stand in the gap and be champions for life. For the past few summers, ladies from our Hope Pregnancy Centers have led a breakout for students at Falls Creek called the Fight for Life. This breakout has equipped and challenged students to be advocates for life because it is a gift from God. We value the gift to bring glory to the giver.

We live spiritually because of the gift of eternal life we receive as we repent of our sin and trust in Him. The one who conquered death and the grave. As we stand for the value of life, we point to the truth of eternal life. I was visiting with the ladies who serve in our Hope Pregnancy Center in North Oklahoma City, and they asked me if I knew their theme verse. They started to quote John 10:10 which I quickly joined them in saying. I was surprised when they came to the last part of the

verse and said the word comma and paused between life and life more abundantly. Then they told me that they believe they are often the comma, the pause, between life and abundant life. In their work they often see those they serve choose life for their child. We know that 83 percent of those who see an ultrasound choose life. They also have the privilege of sharing the Good News of the Gospel that brings eternal life. Both life and eternal life come from the Lord. It is the reason OBHC is committed to showing and sharing His love. To connect the eternal soul of man to the eternal truth of the Gospel that changes lives and eternal destinies.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

We are fearfully and wonderfully made by the creator God. Made to have a relationship with Him. Valued by Him to spend eternity with Him. That truth was established in the beginning that gives the right perspective on the Sanctity of Human Life!



## **God's Wonderful Workmanship**

Ephesians 2:10

SERMON FROM MICHAEL BUTLER

#### **SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:**

EPHESIANS 2:10

**PSALM 90:1** 

1 JOHN 4:19, 21

JAMES 2:15-16 1 TIMOTHY 3:2

Have you ever beheld the wonder of a masterpiece of art? Perhaps you have had the privilege of laying eyes on canvases touched by master painters such as Rembrandt, van Gogh, Picasso, or da Vinci. Or maybe you have listened to music composed by greats such as Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy, or Tchaikovsky. If you are truly fortunate, you may have witnessed the creation of sculptors the likes of Michelangelo, Donatello, or Bernini. The thing that distinguishes the work of master artisans is their ability to inspire with their creation. With every stroke of the brush, note on the page, or chisel of the stone they create something of beauty that stirs the imagination and moves the heart.

The Bible tells us that God is a master of creation and design. In Psalm 90:1 we read, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork." 1 Everything we see and perceive exists to the praise of the glory of our God Who wrought all things into their being. Our world and our universe, even space and time, are portents of His glory and His power.

The crown jewel of God's creation, though, is mankind Whom He created in His very image. Think upon the wonder of this truth. Consider the incredible worth bestowed upon us as beings created to reflect His divine image. No wonder we speak of the sanctity of human life.

Ephesians 2:10 points to the wonder of our worth in a way that inspires us to steward God's precious gift of life for His glory. This verse reminds us, "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." The word translated "workmanship" here is a particularly interesting word. It is a translation of the Greek word poiema, which is the same root word from which we get our word "poem."

We are God's wonderful workmanship. Our lives are a precious gift from a gracious God Who gets glory when we discover His good purposes in Christ Jesus. Like a master artisan, God has designed us each to uniquely display His glory in ways that point to the sanctity of life and the creative wonder of His design. Together let us examine three distinct truths in this text which enable us to see how we bring God glory as we embrace our purpose as His creation.

#### WE ARE CREATED WITH PASSION

The first thing we see in Ephesians 2:10 pointing us to the sanctity of human life is that we are created with passion. Look again at the opening phrase, "we are his workmanship." The word "workmanship" here which could similarly be translated as "masterpiece." God demonstrates passion for His workmanship in His many acts of love toward us.

Consider, for example, our design as divine image bearers. Understanding that we are uniquely formed in God's image ought not to fill us with arrogance or pride, but instead with wonder and awe at His loving kindness. Every human life —at every stage of life—is created with passion and endowed with worth as a masterpiece forged from the furnace of God's love.

The apostle John writes in 1 John 4:19 "We love because He first loved us." Understanding this love compels us to love others just as God loves us. In fact, John writes a few verses later in 1 John 4:21, "whoever loves God must also love his brother." One way we can love others is by championing the cause of life through defending those who are vulnerable and defenseless and being a voice for those in need, especially the unborn. Standing for life demonstrates love and concern for those created with passion as God's workmanship.

#### WE ARE CREATED WITH PURPOSE

The second thing we see in Ephesians 2:10 pointing us to understand the sanctity of human life is that we are created with purpose. This verse explains that we are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." God's purpose is seen in the redemptive work of Jesus as sinners are transformed into saints on mission to glorify the Savior by living for Him. Our good works bring God glory, which is why we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good.

We can glorify God and do good by caring for the needs of others in our community. In James 2:15-16 we read, "If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?" When we attend to the physical needs of others around us, we acknowledge their worth as fellow image bearers, and we embody the love Christ has for them. Fostering and adoption are also powerful ways we bring God glory by caring for others in their hour of need. We fulfill God's purpose by doing good to those around us and allowing God to use us to meet their need.

#### WE ARE CREATED WITH POTENTIAL

The third and final thing we see in Ephesians 2:10 pointing toward the sanctity of human life is that we are created with potential. The passage ends with the statement, "which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Every person is born with the potential to serve the Lord, but not every person realizes this potential. Only those who turn to faith in Jesus Christ can walk in the good works which God has prepared beforehand. This makes our mission of reaching people with the Gospel all the more urgent.

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#### CONTINUED...

Perhaps the most important thing we can do to acknowledge the worth of those around us is to proclaim the Gospel to them and to call them to place their faith in Jesus Christ. Every soul matters to God. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 3:2 that God, "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." When we proclaim the Gospel to those separated from God in their sin, we urge them to walk in the potential for which Ephesians 2:10 tells us they have been created.

God is a master artisan; we are His wonderful workmanship. In Him, we have been created with passion, created with purpose, and created with potential. Together let us do all that we can to stir one another up to love and good works and to champion the immeasurable worth endowed to every masterpiece created by God. Let us stand for life as we defend the unborn, meet the needs of the vulnerable in our community, embody the love of Christ through foster care and adoption, and proclaim the Gospel to those without Jesus that we might bring God glory and walk in the good works for which we were created in Christ Jesus.



### La Maravillosa Obra de Dios

Efesios 2:10

SERMON DE MICHAEL BUTLER

#### **ESCRITURA REFERENCIADA**

EFESIOS 2:10 SALMO 90:1 1 JAUN 4:19, 21 SANTIAGO 2:15-16 1 TIMOTEO 3:2

¿Alguna vez has contemplado la maravilla de una obra maestra? Quizás has tenido el privilegio de observar lienzos tocados por pintores maestros como Rembrandt, van Gogh, Picasso o da Vinci. O tal vez has escuchado música compuesta por grandes como Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy o Tchaikovsky. Si eres verdaderamente afortunado, es posible que hayas sido testigo de la creación de escultores como Miguel Ángel, Donatello o Bernini. Lo que distingue el trabajo de los artesanos maestros es su capacidad para inspirar con su creación. Con cada brochazo, nota en la página o cincelada de la piedra, crean algo bello que despierta la imaginación y conmueve el corazón.

La Biblia nos dice que Dios es un maestro de la creación y el diseño. En Salmo 90:1 leemos: "Los cielos declaran la gloria de Dios, y el firmamento muestra su obra." Todo lo que vemos y percibimos existe para la alabanza de la gloria de nuestro Dios que hizo todas las cosas. Nuestro mundo y nuestro universo, incluso el espacio y el tiempo, son portentosos de Su gloria y Su poder. La joya de la creación de Dios, sin embargo, es la humanidad, a quien creó a Su propia imagen. Piensa en la maravilla de esta verdad. Considera el increíble valor que se nos otorga como seres creados para reflejar Su imagen divina. No es extraño que hablemos de la santidad de la vida humana.

Efesios 2:10 señala la maravilla de nuestro valor de una manera que nos inspira a administrar el precioso regalo de la vida de Dios para Su gloria. Este versículo nos recuerda: "somos su obra maestra, creados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras, las cuales Dios preparó de antemano, para que anduviésemos en ellas." La frase traducida como "obra maestra" aquí es una frase particularmente interesante. Es una traducción de la palabra griega poiema, que es la misma raíz de donde obtenemos nuestra palabra "poema".

Somos la maravillosa obra de Dios. Nuestras vidas son un regalo precioso de un Dios de gracia que recibe gloria cuando descubrimos Sus buenos propósitos en Cristo Jesús. Al igual que un maestro artesano, Dios nos ha diseñado a cada uno para mostrar Su gloria de manera única, señalando la santidad de la vida y la maravillosa creatividad de Su diseño. Juntos, examinemos tres verdades distintas en este texto que nos permiten ver cómo damos gloria a Dios al abrazar nuestro propósito como Su creación.

#### **SOMOS CREADOS CON PASIÓN**

Lo primero que vemos en Efesios 2:10 que nos señala la santidad de la vida humana es que somos creados con pasión. Mira de nuevo la frase inicial: "somos su obra maestra." La frase "obra maestra" aquí podría traducirse también como "maestría." Dios demuestra pasión por Su obra en Sus muchos actos de amor hacia nosotros.

Considera, por ejemplo, nuestro diseño como portadores de Su imagen divina. Comprender que estamos formados de manera única a imagen de Dios no debería llenarnos de arrogancia u orgullo, sino de asombro y admiración por Su bondad. Cada vida humana —en cada etapa de la vida— es creada con pasión y dotada de valor como una obra maestra forjada en el horno del amor de Dios.

El apóstol Juan escribe en 1 Juan 4:19: "Amamos porque Él nos amó primero." Comprender este amor nos impulsa a amar a los demás tal como Dios nos ama. De hecho, Juan escribe unos versículos más adelante en 1 Juan 4:21: "El que ama a Dios, ame también a su hermano." Una forma en que podemos amar a los demás es abogando por la causa de la vida, defendiendo a aquellos que son vulnerables e indefensos y siendo una voz para los que están en necesidad, especialmente los aun no nacidos. Defender la vida demuestra amor y preocupación por aquellos creados con pasión como la obra maestra de Dios.

#### **SOMOS CREADOS CON PROPÓSITO**

Lo segundo que vemos en Efesios 2:10 que nos ayuda a entender la santidad de la vida humana es que somos creados con propósito. Este versículo explica que somos "creados en Cristo Jesús para buenas obras." El propósito de Dios se ve en la obra redentora de Jesús mientras los pecadores son transformados en santos en misión de glorificar al Salvador al vivir para Él. Nuestras buenas obras traen gloria a Dios, que es por qué hemos sido creados en Cristo Jesús para hacer el bien.

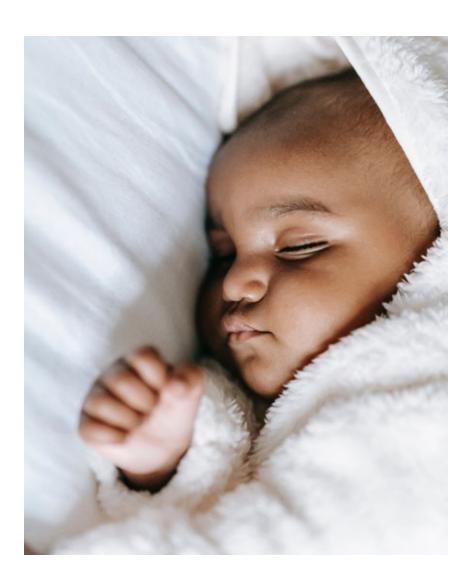
Podemos glorificar a Dios y hacer el bien cuidando de las necesidades de los demás en nuestra comunidad. En Santiago 2:15-16 leemos: "Si un hermano o una hermana están desnudos y carecen del alimento diario, y uno de ustedes les dice: 'Id en paz, calentaos y saciaos,' sin darles las cosas que son necesarias para el cuerpo, ¿de qué sirve eso?" Cuando atendemos las necesidades físicas de los demás a nuestro alrededor, reconocemos su valor como portadores de la imagen de Dios y encarnamos el amor que Cristo tiene por ellos. El acogimiento y la adopción también son formas poderosas en que damos gloria a Dios al cuidar de los demás en su hora de necesidad. Cumplimos el propósito de Dios al hacer el bien a quienes nos rodean y permitir que Dios nos use para satisfacer sus necesidades.

#### SOMOS CREADOS CON POTENCIAL

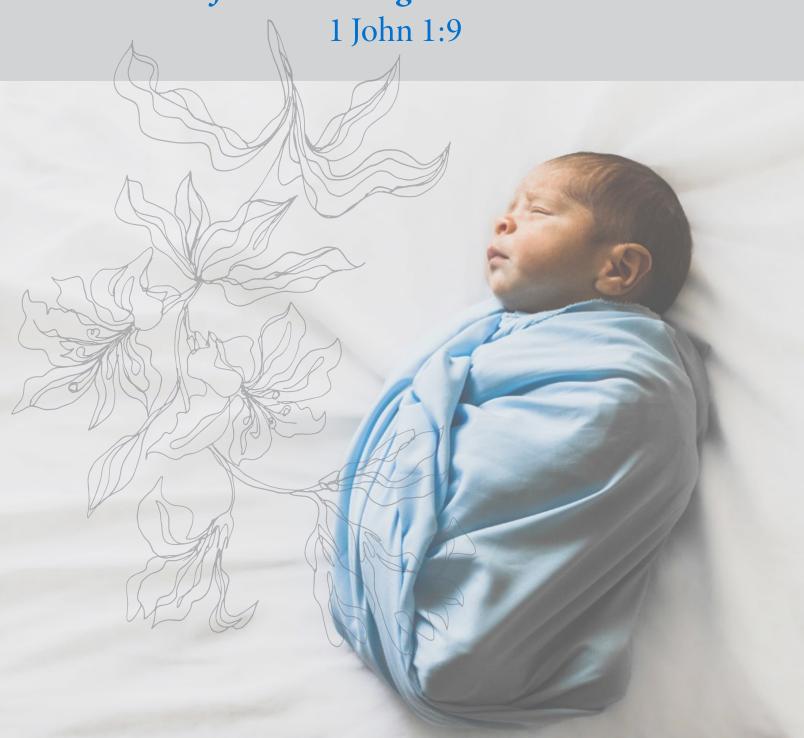
La tercera y última cosa que vemos en Efesios 2:10 que señala la santidad de la vida humana es que somos creados con potencial. El pasaje termina con la declaración: "las cuales Dios preparó de antemano, para que anduviésemos en ellas." Cada persona nace con el potencial de servir al Señor, pero no todas las personas realizan este potencial. Solo aquellos que se vuelven a la fe en Jesucristo pueden caminar en las buenas obras que Dios ha preparado de antemano. Esto hace que nuestra misión de alcanzar a las personas con el evangelio sea aún más urgente.

Quizás la cosa más importante que podemos hacer para reconocer el valor de quienes nos rodean es proclamarles el evangelio y llamarlos a poner su fe en Jesucristo. Cada alma importa para Dios. Pablo escribe en 1 Timoteo 3:2 que Dios "desea que todos los hombres sean salvos y vengan al conocimiento de la verdad." Cuando proclamamos el evangelio a aquellos separados de Dios por su pecado, les instamos a caminar en el potencial para el cual Efesios 2:10 nos dice que han sido creados.

Dios es un maestro artesano; nosotros somos Su maravillosa obra. En Él, hemos sido creados con pasión, creados con propósito y creados con potencial. Juntos, hagamos todo lo posible para animarnos mutuamente a amar y a hacer buenas obras y a defender el inmenso valor que se le otorga a cada obra maestra creada por Dios. Defendamos la vida al proteger a los aun no nacidos, satisfacer las necesidades de los vulnerables en nuestra comunidad, representar el amor de Cristo a través del acogimiento y la adopción, y proclamar el evangelio a aquellos que están sin Jesús, para que podamos dar gloria a Dios y caminar en las buenas obras para las cuales fuimos creados en Cristo Jesús.



"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"



**DID YOU KNOW?** 

The first Oklahoma Baptist crisis pregnancy center opened in 1986.

## 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; He or she weighs about 2 pounds and is about 15 inches long.
- At **32 weeks**, the baby has grown fingernails and toenails.
- At 37 weeks, The baby is considered full term.



## **Defining Life and Love**

#### SERMON FROM KENNY MOSSMAN

#### **SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:**

GENESIS 1-3 JOB 33:4 PSALM 139:13-16 PSALM 8:3-5 JEREMIAH 1:5 GALATIANS 1:15 EZEKIEL 18:4

ISAIAH 43:7 1 CORINTHIANS 13 MATTHEW 26:39 JOHN 3:16 1 JOHN 3:16 ROMANS 5:6-8

For years, we in the church have talked about and protested against the tragedy of abortion. When the U.S. Supreme Court returned the matter to each state on June 24, 2022, it gave a glimmer of hope that the practice would at least be restrained in some places.

Already, abortion advocates have gone on the offensive, attacking pro-life pregnancy centers and contemplating alternative legislation. States that have kept abortion legal have readily accepted out-of-state patients, and some companies now provide free interstate transportation to employees seeking to terminate the life of an unborn child. The disagreement hasn't ended, it has transitioned. There are still many whose desire is to make abortion easily accessible in our country.

We understand the issue. The question is, do we understand the source?

From the time of Satan's conversation with Eve in Genesis 3, he has twisted meanings and confused definitions. Nowhere is that more true than in the definitions of life and love, and it is those deceptions that have landed us in this sea of infant death. Abortion is a result. The cause can be found in mankind's willingness to define life and love in strictly pagan terms.

For years, we in the church have talked about and Webster's definition aligns with that of the world:

- A) the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body.
- B) a principle or force that is considered to underlie the distinctive quality of animate beings.
- C) an organismic state characterized by capacity for metabolism, growth, reaction to stimuli, and reproduction.

The best Webster's can do in its primary definition is to characterize life as the opposite of death. The secondary and tertiary meanings at least give us animation, growth and reproduction. Lost in a homogenized definition is the elevated and intimate position that God gives to humans life.

Let's instead consider life from the perspective of the author and see how it is His.

#### **GOD, THE INTIMATE CREATOR**

In Genesis 1:26, God, in a passage that may give us our first reference to the Trinity, raises the topic of mankind. "Then God said, 'let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Verse 27 adds, "so God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Our eyes cannot simply pass over that text and hurry on to the end of the chapter. No, this is a

revelation that must bring us to a stunned pause. The one who speaks universes into existence made us IN HIS IMAGE.

How can we read that and not be awestruck? How can we read that and ever undervalue life? The very concept of such a thing overwhelms our ability to comprehend it. It should emit from us our most profound worship.

But the Bible doesn't stop there, it adds an intimacy that inclines our hearts. The words of Genesis 2:7, convey that it in this way, "then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."

We must guard against an extra-biblical understanding of this moment, but surely, we can sense the warmth and affection being exhibited here. This is a Father gently crafting together that piece of his creation that is most special to Him; that piece for which he will sacrifice His only Son. It is His breath that fills its lungs and gives it life.



That care and tenderness is a constant theme on the pages of Scripture. God is in the details of our very being. Here is just a sampling of that evidence:

- **Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the almighty gives me life.
- Psalm 139:13-16—For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 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.
- Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you.
- **Galatians 1:15** God set me apart even from my mother's womb ...

This is not a distant force churning out of bodies in a cold, sterile process. This is not a matter of producing something that is the opposite of dead. And it's definitely not something solely of our doing. This is a God whose complexity and enormity still lives in the deepest dna of our existence. Like a master craftsman, he looks upon us as his workmanship, and we are precious in his sight, more so than any other aspect of his creation.

#### THE VALUE OF A LIFE CREATED BY GOD

Psalm 8:3-5, says, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor."

Animation, metabolism and growth, those are simply biological traits. The value of life is found in its creator and its significance to him.

And the human context and its circumstances, while significant in the way we regard one another, are but a backdrop to God's purposes regardless of how we may have landed in a set of circumstances. The Lord says that, "all souls are mine," (Ezekiel 18:4).

We nurture and care for that which God has entrusted us, but we dare not interrupt the work of the Master. Ours is to reverently honor Him whose ways and thoughts are higher than ours.

We can scan the great expanse of God's creation and not see anything that matters to your Lord more than a human life. I learned that the hard way. Well past normal child-bearing years, my wife and I became pregnant at a time when we did not expect it. I confess that I did not react with the joy of one whose quiver was filling. In my pride, I was embarrassed and inconvenienced. I was done with little league and school programs, or so I thought. While we would never consider such a thing, a coworker actually recommended an abortion.

For a week or so I moped around in misguided self-pity. I didn't realize how misguided I was until one night on my drive home from work when my phone rang. It was my mother.

When I answered, and as I recall, without a "hello," she said, "Kenny, I'm concerned about your christian walk."

"Why," I responded, confused by her assertion.

"I have thought you were a Christian man," she said, doubling down on a clearly broader purpose. I shot back, "What are you getting at?"

She shared that she had been talking to my wife, Amy, who had shared with her my disappointment over an unintended pregnancy. It didn't sit well with my mother.

"Well, mom, surely you understand how this looks," I said. "It's not something that happens at our age.

Can't you see how that looks and feels?"
What followed was perhaps the most profound thing she ever uttered. It still rings in my ears today. "Here's what I know," she said.

"God created exactly one thing on this planet that lasts for all eternity, the human soul, and He just gave you another one. I can't see how you wouldn't be excited about that."

That's the kind of truth that will refocus a man in a hurry. I don't remember what I said, but any hint of self-pity evaporated immediately. And the son that was born just a few months later is a delight that we cherish with all our hearts.

Life matters. It matters a lot, especially when we understand it from God's perspective. What about love?

#### LOVE

Back to Webster's we go for a worldly definition:

- A) strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties
- **B)** based on sexual desire: affection and tenderness felt by lovers
- **C)** affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests

There are elements of that definition that fit the biblical meaning. God is not without emotion. Who among us didn't memorize, "Jesus wept?" Kinship brings to mind visions of family reunions, and benevolence is a line item in most church budgets. What I might suggest is that the secondary definition, "based on sexual desire: affection and tenderness felt by lovers," has been moved by our culture ahead of the primary definition while many times lapping the third one.

#### **GOD'S INTENDED PURPOSE**

Sexual desire was never intended to be the centerpiece in love. When God gave Adam and Eve their familial marching orders, it had a practcal purpose. The directive in Genesis 1:28 says, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth."

The Lord's intention has been to fill the Earth with this important life He created. Remember what he said to Abraham in Genesis 15:5, "and He brought him outside and said, 'look toward Heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. Then He said to him, so shall your offspring be.'"

Why so great a population? To glorify the Creator. Isaiah 43:7 refers to us this way, "everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Procreation has a very practical side, but it's not only practical. Afterall, the Bible does include the Song of Solomon. God gave us emotion, and he gifted us with an act of procreation that is pleasurable and fulfilling. If only we had accepted it as such.

#### **SELF-FULFILLING OR SELF-DENYING?**

Satan, the master of deception and confusion, meshed love and sex, and now our daily vernacular includes a term like, "making love," that distorts love and elevates sex to a place it was never intended to hold. The social consequences have been staggering.

Now that sex is idolized and love is a sexual act, marriage and family are no longer essential components for either.

Childtrends.org recently reported that nearly 40 percent of births in America are to unwed women, a statistic that has skyrocketed by 28 percent since 1990. Unsurprisingly, 73 percent of abortions in the U.S., are performed on unmarried women. Most of those women fall into a "poor" • socio-economic category, and many already have a child. When love and lust became synonymous, the nuclear family was the first casualty. Thirty-five percent of the children in Oklahoma are growing up in a single-parent household.

That's where the world's confused, distorted definition of love has landed us. Sex can be a component within a loving relationship, but it is not a picture of love.

The picture of love is a cross on a barren hill outside Jerusalem's gates.

How is that the picture of love? It is love because the Bible defines love not as a self-serving sexual act, but as a self-denying sacrifice. How the two ever got confused only speaks to the quality of Satan's work in this field. To be fair, Merriam-Webster mentions unselfishness in its definition of love. It's down there in the fourth, or quaternary, meaning. Clearly, our culture did not read down that far.

The most famous Bible verse, John 3:16, says, "for God so loved that world that He ... gave." And He gave at great personal cost in the form of, "His only Son."

Ironically, or perhaps not, 1 John 3:16 takes that example and applies it to mankind, "By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."

Laying down our lives? Seriously? That doesn't sound much like, "making love" in today's world. First Corinthians 13, the love chapter, expands on that notion in verses 4-7, "Love is patient and kind; Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things".

Every bit of that Scripture points to the recipient of our love:

- We're patient and kind ... to other people.
- We're not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude ...
  because we don't want to offend others.
- We don't insist on our own way, and we aren't irritable or resentful ... because our desires are not primary.
- We're not joyful in wrong doing ... because we yearn for righteousness and the well-being of our neighbors.
- We rejoice in truth, we bear all things, we believe, we hope and we endure ... because those are the traits of a Christ follower.

This is where love meets the road, so to speak. Real love persists regardless of the personal cost. One of the moments in Jesus' life that is most identifiable to us is that night in Gethsemane. Under the unimaginable stress of bearing our sin debt, Jesus did what any of us might do. He asked for an alternative.

In Matthew 26:39, He prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me ..."

Had we been watching, and had we known what was hanging in the balance, we would have been on the edge of our seats waiting to hear what came next. In fact, the word that came next was the word "love," spelled with 12 letters: n-e-v-e-r-t-h-e-l-e-s-s. "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will," He said.

What crystalized in the moment is what Paul later wrote in Romans 5:6-8, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

That's love. For those with no merit, the holy one of God, forsaking his own pleasure, took the penalty that should have been ours.

That's the definition that has been lost among a crooked and twisted generation.

#### CONCLUSION

Abortion became an epidemic in our country when man attempted to find the meaning and origin of life on the pages of a manmade textbook and equated love with personal pleasure. If life is a biological debate and love is sex, the fallout will be the distortion of God's most-prized gift, human life. That's the point where we have and will continue to draw the line in the sand. If Jesus came to redeem life and did so out of His great love for us, then we're not talking about a medical procedure. We're talking about the Gospel.



### "FIGHT FOR LIFE" Video Training

As one of the highest attended breakouts at Falls Creek in 2023, 2024 and 2025, Hope Pregnancy Center (Hope) staff now provide this teaching in three 20-minute videos. This series is ideal for church training, Sanctity of Human Life Month, and youth ministry.



- Sanctity of Human Life Education
- The Truth of Abortion
- How to Be a Culture Changer Speaking up for life with factual information on life and abortion.

#### 2025 Falls Creek "Fight for Life" Breakout Feedback

- A young teenage girl, who was already 22 weeks pregnant when she came to Falls Creek, attended Hope's
  "Fight for Life" breakout. When she returned home and told her parents she was pregnant, they felt the
  most reasonable path forward for her was abortion. She shared with her parents what she had learned in the
  breakout and about her convictions for life. With much weeping accompanied by grace, she chose life, and
  her parents supported her.
- In 2024, after visiting with Hope staff, a young woman made a choice to stop being sexually active, broke up with her boyfriend, and began living for Christ. When she saw Hope staff in 2025, she ran to let them know she was still living for Christ in all areas of her life.
- One pro-choice student told Hope staff she attended the breakout so she could tell her cabin Hope was not being truthful. Her mind was changed with the truth of fetal development and how abortion ends a life God creates. She stated, "I didn't know we are all made in God's image."
- After attending the breakout, a young man called his girlfriend and told her he wanted to stop being sexually
  active, and they needed to talk about how they were dating. He broke up with her when she did not respond
  well and expressed sorrow she had not come to camp to hear the breakout herself.
- Another young man said, "I believed it was the woman's right to decide about choosing life for the baby.

  After learning the baby has its own heartbeat and DNA, I'll speak up when I hear "it's my body, my choice."
- Two pro-choice students who attended the breakout prayed afterwards to ask God to forgive them for promoting abortion and stated they will look for a pro-life group on their college campus.

The presentation is easily facilitated by church or youth leaders. Hope Pregnancy Center staff are also available to present. Contact **ashton.gordon@obhc.org** to schedule a presenter.







Please let us know if these videos were beneficial to your church.

"Fight for Life" videos and other Culture Changer resources.



## 2024 OKLAHOMA IMPACT

9,544
Clients
Served

5,204
Pregnancy
Tests Provided

3,812
Ultrasounds
87%
Chose Life

3,101
Parenting/
Prenatal Class
Participants

274
Accepted
Christ

86
Abortion
Recovery
Participants

\*Stats provided by 39 of 47 participating centers.

Despite Oklahoma's abortion ban after Roe v. Wade was overturned, abortion rates have remained steady, or even risen, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association. The Guardian reported that between July 2023 and August 2024, one provider shipped nearly 120,000 abortion pill packs to U.S. residents with almost 100,000 going to states where abortion pill mailing is banned. Distribution rates were over three times higher in ban states than in states without restrictions.

The Pregnancy Resource Network provides services to forty-seven Oklahoma communities. Free and confidential services include pregnancy testing, limited OB ultrasounds, education on pregnancy options, spiritual encouragement and gospel presentations, STD testing and treatment, sexual risk avoidance education, Earn While You Learn programs for moms and dads to earn baby items for participating in parenting classes, and abortion recovery programs.

For a list of participating centers visit www.pregnancynet.org.

#### 'IMAGO DEI'

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUP LESSON FOR YOUTH BY TODD SANDERS

**<u>BIG IDEA:</u>** We are created in the image of God, and we are to live our lives to reflect the image of God by valuing and protecting others.

**LEARNING GOAL:** Learners will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of human life by looking at how they are created in the image of God and identifying and planning three ways they can value and protect others in practical ways.

#### **Open in Prayer**

#### **Discussion/Activity:**

Ask students to share what holidays and special occasions mean the most to you. Talk about Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which began in 1984, as the day churches recognize the value and dignity of life, from womb to tomb.

#### **INTRO**

What is the Imago Dei? the image or likeness of God, not just physical, "formal, visible, understandable representation of who God is and what He's really like" Gospel Coalition

"The imago Dei is not a quality possessed by man; it is a condition in which man lives, a condition of confrontation established and maintained by the Creator. ... The imago Dei is that in man which constitutes him as him-whom-God-loves." John Piper

Throughout history all sorts of kings, rulers, conquerors, even "everyday" people have:

- Claimed to be God
- Fabricated ridiculous notions of what God looks like (Talk about or even show some examples)

#### TRUTH: God already made us in His image.

We are created by God to reveal the image of God. We reveal God's glory through our:

- Unique position in relation to God
  - We are set apart from the rest of creation. (Gen 2:26)
- •Unique responsibility in relation to creation
  - We are called to manage creation. (Gen 2:28-30)
- •Unique relationship within each other
  - We are called to value human life. (Genesis 9:6)
  - You reflect who God is and what He stands for. (Genesis 1:26)

This is more than something as simple as a physical image. You are a representation of who our King is and what He is like. You are the crowning jewel among His creation.

#### God is a master craftsman and made you with flawless workmanship

There is no one like you! You hold immeasurable value to God, and have dignity, regardless of your stage of development, socio-economic status, nationality, country of origin, gender, etc.

#### 1) YOU ARE MADE IN HIS IMAGE

- A) God made you just like you are (Psalm 139:13)
  - •He knows you inside and out
  - •He knows what you need to be what you are made to be.
  - •God made all people in His image (James 3:9)

This means all people (born and unborn) have value and dignity as image bearers of God

- B) God made you with intention... and without accident.
  - You are not an accident
  - •God chose to make you.
  - •Even knowing all that you have done or will do wrong.
- C) God made you with purpose.
  - •God put you on this planet for a reason.
  - •There are things that you bring to the Kingdom that no one else does.
- D) God made you with a plan
  - •God alone holds the keys to put that plan in motion

#### 2) HOW DO WE MAKE THAT IMAGE CLEARER?

Living out the image of God

**Read Psalm 8:3-8:** What does the passage say about living our lives as image bearers of God?

A) Love like Him

**Read: John 13:34-35:** What is happening in this account? What are some things that stick out to you? What are the lessons we can learn from it?

•We reflect Jesus the best when we love like he did. That happens through how we:

1. Pursue God

2. Take Care of People

Valuing life means valuing the unborn, the immigrant, the homeless, the marginalized, those who are different from us... Who else? Take time identifying groups of people or individuals who need our care.

Show love. When we love like Jesus, we are fulfilling our role as image bearers of God. Discuss in the group, or in small discussion groups, ways we can show love to the groups or people we just identified.

How can we show we value life like God does?

B) Live like Him

**Read: Philippians 2:6-8:** What direction does this passage give for us to mirror Jesus' attitudes and actions?

Our attitudes and actions should be the same as Jesus.

- •How we interact with our world. "You might be the only Jesus somebody ever sees.
- •There are too many people out there running around and misrepresenting who Jesus is.
- •Everyday do everything you can to have the same heart and attitude that Jesus did.

#### 3) REMEMBER YOU ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS

Read: Colossians 3:5-10 Read: 2 Corinthians 3:18

- •God will continue to perfect the work he started in you over the course of your life.
- •Give God time to finish working.

You do not become like Jesus overnight. "Bad expectations lead to frustrated spirits."

- •Do not quit when you do not see results.
- •Do not get ahead of God.
- •God has his own timing for everything.

## **Pro-Life Videos**

#### VIDEO: THE TRUTH ABOUT ABORTION



Hear a medical professional share the truth about chemical abortion.

Scan here to



## VIDEO: SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BABY IN THE WOMB



See the miracle of life as it is formed over 9 months in the womb.

Scan nere to watch



# Two Weeks of Praying for Life

**Day 1** | Praise God for where abortion is being stopped. Pray for the complete end of abortion everywhere.

**Day 2** | Pray that God would help women choose life in the midst of an unintended pregnancy.

**Day 3** | Pray for the mothers who have had an abortion and are seeking the healing and peace that only God can offer.

**Day 4** | Pray that God would protect children in the womb from those who would perform or encourage an abortion.

**Day 5** | Pray that through the proclaiming of God's Word more people would be persuaded to value life at every stage.

**Day 6** | Pray that Christians would become involved with their local pregnancy resource ministry.

**Day 7** | Pray that people would give generously to support pro-life ministries.

**Day 8** | 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 9** | Pray for people to place great value on God as being our Creator. For when we value God, we will value His creation.

**Day 10** | Pray for the staff members and volunteers who work with abortion vulnerable mothers at pregnancy resource centers.

**Day 11** | 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 12** | Pray that our churches will not accept complacency toward the atrocious act of abortion.

**Day 13** | Pray for our pastors that they are bold and faithful to preach and teach God's Word regarding the sanctity of human life.

**Day 14** | Pray for the families who are longing to adopt a child.

## TAKE ACTION FOR LIFE

- 1. On January 18, 2026, participate in Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Set on the third Sunday every January, churches across America are encouraged to emphasize the value of human life from conception to natural death.
- 2. Support your local Pregnancy Resource Center. There are more than 39 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 pregnancynet.org.
- 3. Pray for an end to abortion. Since abortion was legalized, millions of unborn children have lost their lives to abortion. Pray daily that God would end abortion, and pray specifically that people would choose life until legalized abortion ends everywhere.
- 4. On February 4, 2026, attend Rose Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol. join other prolife Oklahomans at the annual Rose Day Pro-Life Indoor Rally. Find out more at 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.

# John 1:3 "THROUGH HIM all things were made"



# Sanctity of Human Life RESOURCES







oklahomabaptists.org/life

This resource is supported by Oklahoma Baptists gifts through the Cooperative Program.





