PASTOR'S PREACHING GUIDE/INFORMATION RESOURCE



Sanctity *of* Human Life Sunday *2027*

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 to set aside Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 17, 2027, as a key time to lead your church in standing for life. Oklahoma Baptists and Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children have partnered to create Sanctity of Human Life Sunday resources for you and your church. At *oklahomabaptists.org/life*, you will find new Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Church Resources, including sample sermon outlines, videos, prayer points, a sermon in Spanish 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 3, 2027.

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

Table of Contents

4 | OWEN NEASE, PASTOR
"How to be Human"
Emmaus Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

7 | 'CULTURE CHANGERS' VIDEO TRAINING (FOR STUDENTS)

8 | TODD SANDERS
"IMAGO DEI" Lesson for Youth
Discipleship Ministry Partner, Oklahoma Baptists

10 | PRO-LIFE VIDEOS

11 | PRAYER GUIDE & ACTION STEPS

12 | CHURCH RESOURCES, PRO-LIFE MEDIA, AND MORE

ADDITIONAL SERMON SAMPLE OUTLINES:

13 | JAMES SWAIN
"Back to the Beginning"
President, Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children

17 | MICHAEL BUTLER, PASTOR
"God's Wonderful Workmanship"
First Baptist Church, Chickasha

20 | Recurso en Español: OWEN NEASE, PASTOR
"Cómo Ser un Ser Humano"
Emmaus Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

25 | KENNY MOSSMAN, PASTOR
"Defining Life and Love"
First Baptist Church, Carnegie

Coming Events





Scan here for more information!

oklahomabaptists.org/life

How to Be Human

Psalm 8

FEATURED SERMON FROM OWEN NEASE

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:

GENESIS 1:26-28
MATTHEW 21:14-16
1 COR. 15:25-27
EPHESIANS 1:20-23
HEBREWS 2:5-9

One of my children sent me a text a few months ago with a "baby picture" of Adam and Eve. You guessed it – a pile of dirt beside a single rib bone!

Baby pictures bring a smile to our faces when we see the cute cheeks, precious fingers, and the smile (or maybe it was just gas). Now, because of modern technology, baby pictures are even available before birth, allowing us to recognize the features and movements of these children in the womb.

Praise God for the effectiveness of ultrasound images to inspire many would-be abortive mothers to choose life! Let's continue to support and celebrate the work of our Hope Pregnancy Centers.

Our text today, Psalm 8, provides a foundation for human dignity that we need to hear on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This psalm provides three pillars for understanding how to be human in a world of chaos and sin. When we build around these pillars, we will protect life, promote flourishing, and praise God.

PILLAR #1. AWE: THE MAJESTY OF GOD (PSALM 8:1, 9)

Verse 1 is repeated in verse 9. The Psalm best known for its focus on humanity is framed by references to God's majesty, specifically this name of God.

The font in most versions of the Bible will distinguish between the first reference to Lord in verse 1 (and verse 9) and the second use of the term Lord. The first reference reflects the word Yahweh, which is God's personal name and reminds us of His continuing presence and covenant relationship. The second use of Lord is Adonai, a term of sovereign power and majesty.

We live in a world desperate for awe! We need to look up, overwhelmed with reverence for Someone greater than ourselves. Today, before we consider the value of human life, can I call you to look up in awe? Let's cry out in worship, "How majestic is your name in all the earth!"

PILLAR #2. HUMILITY: THE POWER OF THE WEAK (PSALM 8:2)

Verse 2 is surprising. Instead of "out of the mouth of babies and infants," I would naturally expect, "Out of the mouths of kings and warriors!"

If God is majestic and has set His glory above the heavens, and if foes are seeking to oppose Him, we expect kings and warriors to be the pathway to strength and victory. Instead, God establishes strength from babies and infants.

If you put a CEO or high-ranking leader in a business meeting, this leader will navigate the room with confidence and strength. Take the same leader into the church nursery on Sunday morning, and the mouths of babies and infants will topple the strongest and most prideful among us!

God doesn't send out the strongest armies, He works through the vulnerable and weak. We see this through the birth of Jesus Christ. The same theme continues in Matthew 21:14-16.

And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to Him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

We are part of God's upside down kingdom. He works in unexpected ways through unlikely people. We must be on guard against promoting those with influence, money, or talents, especially if doing so causes us to devalue the "least" whom Jesus treated with love and care.

How is God calling you to display His power by humbly caring for the vulnerable and hurting?

PILLAR #3. DIGNITY: THE VALUE OF HUMANITY (PSALM 8:3-8)

If babies and children don't humble you, the stars certainly can. One highlight of living in a rural area is standing under a vast, night sky, staring up at the stars. If you find yourself in such a situation and think, "I'm a pretty big deal," I'd encourage you to seek out a friend who can set you straight!

Being made lower than the heavenly beings isn't reason for despair, however. Instead, we are crowned with glory and honor, even having dominion (a powerful reflection of Genesis 1-2) over the other created beings.

In such a framework, work is not a punishment. Instead, we have purpose, both now and eternally! Despite promises from modern technology that we won't have to work in the future, Christians embrace work as a gift and calling from God.

Don't miss, as well, that Psalm 8 is a Messianic Psalm (Hebrews 2, 1 Corinthians 15, Ephesians 2). It prepares us for the "Son of Man" who will redeem humans made in the image of God. This hope is fulfilled in the Incarnation of the Son of God, the defeat of sin and death through the Cross and Bodily Resurrection of Jesus, and the future promise of a New Creation.

From the moment of conception to your final breath (and into eternity), your life has value and purpose! Most importantly, do you know the salvation and hope that comes through faith in Jesus Christ?

Conclusion. (Psalm 8:9)

When your life is built on the pillars of Awe, Humility, and Dignity, how does this impact the way you live?

First, we will protect life. This begins with protection of the unborn and extends to how we treat the hurting, outsiders, and elderly.

Second, we will promote the flourishing of others. Christians can work purposefully, provide jobs, and value the gifts and human dignity of one another.

Finally, we will praise God together, recognizing that we're able to do so because the Son of Man laid down His life for us, overcoming sin and death.

On Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, I urge you to look to Jesus for salvation and worship our Lord with reverence and awe. "How majestic is His name in all the earth!"



"Culture Changers" Video Training

As one of the highest attended breakouts at Falls Creek, 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.

CULTURE CHANGERS
PRO-LIFE RESOURCES

- **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.**

Falls Creek "Culture Changers" Breakout Feedback

- A young teenage girl, who was already 22 weeks pregnant when she came to Falls Creek, attended Hope's "Culture Changers" 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.

- 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, 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."

- A young woman told Hope staff, "Before this breakout, I truly believed abortion was safe and good for women. After this breakout I know that is horribly wrong. I feel so bad because I have encouraged several of my friends to take the pill. I need to check on them and tell them I am so sorry."

- One 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."

- Hope staff ministered to six students experiencing unplanned pregnancies and connected them with pregnancy centers in their communities. Hope was there to remind them they were not without help, resources or hope.

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

Hope Pregnancy Center
OBHC

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

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

'IMAGO DEI'

SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUP LESSON FOR YOUTH BY TODD SANDERS

BIG IDEA: 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 the physical, "formal, visible, understandable representation of who God is and what He's really like."

"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 2:25)
- Unique responsibility in relation to creation
  We are called to manage creation. (Gen 1:28-30)
- 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.

Read Psalm 8:1-2: What do verses 1-2 say about the "sanctity" of human life?

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 watch!

VIDEO: SEE HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER TESTIMONY



Hear how one step through the Hope Pregnancy Center doors changed a woman's life forever.

Scan here 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 17, 2027, 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 approximately 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 *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 3, 2027, attend Rose Day at the Oklahoma State Capitol.** Join other pro-life 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 foster care program can help you or your church make an impact for life through foster care. See *OBHC.org*.

For more information, visit *oklahomabaptists.org/life*

Pregnancy RESOURCE Network

2025 OKLAHOMA IMPACT

11,528 Clients Served

5,665 Pregnancy Tests Provided

3,854 Ultrasounds

2,442 Parenting/ Prenatal Class Participants

292 Accepted Christ

83 Abortion Recovery Participants

**Statistics provided by 32 of 46 participating centers.*

The Pregnancy Resource Network provides services to 47 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.

Back to the Beginning

Genesis 2:7

SERMON FROM JAMES SWAIN

SCRIPTURES REFERENCED:

PSALM 127:3
GENESIS 1:27
GENESIS 2:4, 7
GENESIS 3
PSALM 148:13
EZEKIEL 37:5
JOHN 3
1 CORINTHIANS 15:45
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 what God knew. 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, we 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."* 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.

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.



Cómo ser un ser humano

Salmos 8:1-9

SERMON DE OWEN NEASE

PASAJES BÍBLICOS DE REFERENCIA:

GÉNESIS 1:26-28
MATEO 21:14-16
1 CORINTIOS 15:25-27
EFESIOS 1:20-23
HEBREOS 2:5-9

Hace algunos meses, uno de mis hijos me envió un mensaje de texto con una "foto de bebé" de Adán y Eva. Ya se imaginarán: ¡un montón de tierra junto a una sola costilla!

Las fotos de bebés nos sacan una sonrisa cuando vemos esas mejillas tiernas, esos deditos preciosos y esa sonrisa (o tal vez solo eran gases). Ahora, gracias a la tecnología moderna, incluso podemos ver imágenes de los bebés antes de nacer, lo que nos permite reconocer sus rasgos y movimientos mientras aún están en el vientre materno.

¡Alabemos a Dios por la efectividad de las ecografías, que han inspirado a muchas madres que consideraban abortar a escoger la vida! Sigamos apoyando y celebrando la labor de nuestros Centros de Esperanza para el Embarazo.

Nuestro texto de hoy, el Salmo 8, nos ofrece un fundamento para la dignidad humana que necesitamos escuchar en el Domingo de la Santidad de la Vida Humana. Este salmo presenta tres pilares para comprender cómo ser verdaderamente humanos en un mundo marcado por el caos y el pecado. Cuando edificamos nuestra vida sobre estos pilares, protegeremos la vida, promoveremos el bienestar humano y alabaraemos a Dios.

PILAR #1: ASOMBRO. LA MAJESTAD DE DIOS (SALMOS 8:1, 9)

El versículo 1 se repite en el versículo 9. El salmo más conocido por su enfoque en la humanidad está enmarcado por referencias a la majestad de Dios, específicamente a Su nombre.

En la mayoría de las versiones de la Biblia, el formato tipográfico distingue entre la primera referencia a "Señor" en el versículo 1 (y también en el versículo 9) y el segundo uso del término. La primera referencia corresponde a Yahvé, el nombre personal de Dios, que nos recuerda Su presencia constante y Su relación de pacto con Su pueblo. La segunda referencia es Adonai, un término que resalta Su autoridad soberana y majestad.

¡Vivimos en un mundo desesperado por recuperar el asombro! Necesitamos levantar la mirada y maravillarnos con reverencia ante Alguien más grande que nosotros. Hoy, antes de considerar el valor de la vida humana, quiero invitarte a mirar hacia arriba con admiración. Proclamemos en

adoración: "¡Cuán glorioso es Tu nombre en toda la tierra!".

PILAR #2: HUMILDAD. EL PODER DE LOS DÉBILES (SALMOS 8:2)

El versículo 2 es sorprendente. En lugar de decir "de la boca de los niños y de los que aún maman", uno esperaría leer: "de la boca de reyes y guerreros".

Si Dios es majestuoso y ha puesto Su gloria sobre los cielos, y si existen enemigos que se oponen a Él, esperaríamos que los reyes y los guerreros fueran el medio para manifestar Su fuerza y victoria. Sin embargo, Dios establece Su fortaleza por medio de bebés y niños pequeños.

Si colocas a un director ejecutivo o a un líder de alto rango en una reunión de negocios, se moverá con confianza y autoridad. Pero lleva a esa misma persona a la sala de bebés de la iglesia un domingo por la mañana, ¡y las voces de los niños más pequeños pueden derribar hasta al más orgulloso de los líderes!

Dios no envía a los ejércitos más poderosos; Él obra a través de los vulnerables y débiles. Vemos este principio en el nacimiento de Jesucristo. El mismo tema continúa en Mateo 21:14-16:

"Y vinieron a Él en el templo ciegos y cojos, y los sanó. Pero los principales sacerdotes y los escribas, al ver las maravillas que hacía y a los niños clamando en el templo: '¡Hosanna al Hijo de David!', se indignaron. Entonces le dijeron: '¿Oyes lo que estos dicen?'. Y Jesús les respondió: 'Sí. ¿Nunca leyeron: De la boca de los niños y de los que maman perfeccionaste la alabanza?'".

Somos parte del reino de Dios, que muchas veces funciona al revés de las expectativas humanas. Él obra de maneras inesperadas por medio de personas que nadie consideraría influyentes. Debemos cuidarnos de exaltar a quienes tienen poder, dinero o talentos, especialmente si eso nos lleva a menospreciar a los "más pequeños", a quienes Jesús trató con amor y compasión.

¿Cómo te está llamando Dios a mostrar Su poder al cuidar con humildad a los vulnerables y necesitados?

PILAR #3: DIGNIDAD. EL VALOR DE LA HUMANIDAD (SALMOS 8:3-8)

Si los bebés y los niños no te llevan a la humildad, las estrellas seguramente lo harán. Uno de los beneficios de vivir en una zona rural es poder permanecer bajo un inmenso cielo nocturno contemplando las estrellas. Si alguna vez te encuentras en una situación así y piensas: "Soy realmente importante", te recomendaría buscar a un amigo que te ayude a recuperar la perspectiva correcta.

Sin embargo, haber sido creados un poco menores que los seres celestiales no es motivo de desesperación. Al contrario, hemos sido coronados de gloria y honra, y se nos ha concedido dominio sobre el resto de la creación, una poderosa referencia a Génesis 1 y 2.

Bajo esta perspectiva, el trabajo no es un castigo. Más bien, tenemos propósito tanto ahora como por la eternidad. A pesar de las promesas de la tecnología moderna de que algún día no será necesario utilizar, los cristianos vemos el trabajo como un regalo y un llamado de Dios.

Además, no debemos perder de vista que el Salmo 8 es un salmo mesiánico (Hebreos 2; 1 Corintios 15; Efesios 1). Nos prepara para el "Hijo del Hombre", quien redimiría a los seres humanos creados

a imagen de Dios. Esta esperanza se cumple en la encarnación del Hijo de Dios, en la derrota del pecado y de la muerte mediante la cruz y la resurrección corporal de Jesucristo, y en la futura promesa de una nueva creación.

Desde el momento de la concepción hasta tu último aliento, e incluso por toda la eternidad, tu vida tiene valor y propósito. Pero lo más importante es esto: ¿conoces la salvación y la esperanza que vienen por medio de la fe en Jesucristo

CONCLUSIÓN (SALMOS 8:9)

Cuando tu vida está edificada sobre los pilares del asombro, la humildad y la dignidad, ¿cómo impacta eso la manera en que vives?

Primero, protegeremos la vida. Esto comienza con la protección de los no nacidos y se extiende a la manera en que tratamos a quienes sufren, a los marginados y a los adultos mayores.

Segundo, promoveremos el bienestar de los demás. Los cristianos pueden trabajar con propósito, generar oportunidades laborales y valorar los dones y la dignidad humana de cada persona.

Finalmente, alabaremos juntos a Dios, reconociendo que podemos hacerlo porque el Hijo del Hombre entregó Su vida por nosotros y venció al pecado y a la muerte.

En este Domingo de la Santidad de la Vida Humana, te animo a mirar a Jesús para encontrar salvación y a adorar a nuestro Señor con reverencia y asombro.

"¡Cuán glorioso es Su nombre en toda la tierra!"



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

1 John 1:9



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.

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 apacity 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 co-worker 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 practical 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.



John 1:3

"THROUGH HIM all things were made"



Sanctity of Human Life
RESOURCES

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