

“The Sanctity of Life”

01-24-16

We’re observing “The Sanctity of Life” today. We’re not doing this to bring politics into the church, and we’re not focusing on the Sanctity of Life because we live in a society that doesn’t, no, there’s more to it than that. It’s because we serve a God Who does believe in life! We’re observing this Sanctity of Life Sunday because **All Life is Precious to God!**

God’s Word raises life issues way above the political realm. It reminds us why it’s important for us, who are members of the Body of Christ to address these issues. It tells us that **Every Life is a Life Created by God.**

Open to Psalm 139. In the beginning, when God created man, He designed man to be just like Himself. His words were, “*Let us make man in our image.*” This shows both His desire and His love. Verses 13-15, “*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.*”

God created you, your very essence, your genetic identity, and then He covered you, “*knitted*” a body for you. No wonder the Psalmist says in verse 14, “*I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*”

What makes you special is the signature of God on your heart. He’s given you your soul and filled you with His breath of life. You’re His work of art! You’re significant, not because of what you do, but because of Whose you are! Isaiah 43:1 reminds you, “*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine.*”

But, **Sin Corrupts God’s Handiwork.** All the flaws and defects in us: physical, mental, and emotional, all flow from one giant flaw, sin! Sin corrupts us to our very core. This corruption shows itself in so many ways, but the one we want to look at today is how sin has affected the way we view and value life. Sin makes us judge life’s value based on criteria *we* and the world think are important.

But we haven’t done very well with the criteria we’ve used to determine life’s value in the past. We’ve used ethnicity, skin color, or economic position, as the basis for value and these have caused hatred, discrimination, and brutal slaughter. More lives than can ever be completely counted have been lost. Now we use whether you are born or not as a basis for value and end up with abortion being the most common surgical procedure done in this country.

Millions upon millions of lives all over the world have been lost in this brutal way. Even though the abortion rate in the United States is slowly declining, there have still been over 57 million in the United States alone since its legalization in 1973!

This deadly sin of man, God’s creature, isn’t just a sin in the world out there. We in the Church share in the blame for what’s happening. We do so when we fail to, as Proverbs 31:8 says: “*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute*”. We share in the blame when we fail to deal with these issues because we think they’re only political problems or social ills, and instead just sit silently as the slaughter continues.

Turn to Mark 10. We also share in the shame when we never think of the children who will never have the opportunity to be brought to Jesus through the waters of Holy

Baptism and receive His love and forgiveness. **Every Life is a Life for whom Jesus Christ Died.** Verses 13-14, *“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”*

We should join Jesus in being indignant with the disciples for trying to prevent children from coming to Him, but if we say and do nothing about the 3,300 abortions every single day in this country, aren't we also preventing children from coming to Jesus Christ? Jesus' rebuke should ring true in our ears too, *“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God”*.

When we don't talk about the life issues for all individuals, we silence the only message that can really make a difference in the lives of people facing the grave issues of life and death. The message of the Gospel is the most powerful and positive Life message in the universe!

Turn to 1 Timothy 2 : We have a message of our God who loved the work of His hands so much, He sent His One and Only Son, Jesus down into our sin-broken world and into our sin-broken lives to bring restoration and healing. He came down to bear the punishment for all sin and for every sinner. Verses 13-14, *“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* Jesus came for those who've sinned against life. In fact, in one sense, we can say He came *especially* for those who've sinned against life and are crushed under that burden!

Jesus paid the price for every sin and for every sinner. Not everyone knows that, and that's our task as Christ's Church to share this Good News of what Jesus Christ has done! The whole act of Jesus coming, suffering, and dying for each and every one of us is a result of His grace! Because of what He did, **Every Life is Saved by God's Grace!**

But there's more. **God Desires a Relationship with us Forever!** 1 Timothy 2:4, *“God our Savior, desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”* God wants to adopt every human being, through faith in Jesus Christ into His family, and lead them, walk with them and accomplish His purpose in them. With Him as your God, you can feel loved, protected and eternally safe!

The embryo in the womb, the baby, the relative in the Alzheimer's unit or nursing home bed, you and me, we all have value! We're all created by the hand of God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and someone God calls His own. All God's children, all those who are vulnerable and in need, no matter what their age are precious to God! **The Value of Your Life comes from God!**

Let's speak the truth of life more. Let's educate ourselves, not just on life issues, but on what God's Word of Truth has to say. Let's pledge to grow together in the study of God's Word and prayer each day so Jesus Christ may be glorified! Then let's take this truth about the value and sanctity of life, out into our society and share it, boldly and courageously!

You are very special chosen people! You're chosen people who can make a positive difference everywhere! May each and every one of you celebrate see Life in Jesus Christ!