

“It’s All About LIFE”

01-25-15

L.R. Agnew, a professor at UCLA Medical School, gave his students this scenario:

"Consider this family history: The father has a venereal disease, the mother has tuberculosis, they have had 4 children: the first is blind, the second died as an infant, the third is deaf, the fourth has tuberculosis. The mother is pregnant and the parents are willing to have an abortion IF YOU, and their physician, recommend it. What would you suggest?

Overwhelmingly, the class said they would strongly encourage the mother to have an abortion. To that Professor Agnew said, "Congratulations, You just murdered Beethoven."

We’re focusing on the “Sanctity of Human Life” today. We’re not focusing on this just because we live in a society that doesn’t honor life, but because we serve a God Who Does! We’re observing Life Sunday because all life is precious to our God!

God’s Word raises life issues way above politics. The Word reminds us why it’s important for us who are members of the Body of Christ to address these issues. It also tells us that all **Life is Created by God.**

Open to Psalm 139. When God created man, He designed man to be just like Him. His words were, “*Let us make man in our image.*” This shows both His desire and His love. It also shows how much He cares for us. **Look at verses 13-14**, “*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. He, “knitted together” your body in the womb. No wonder the Psalmist says in verse 14, “*I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*” It’s true, **We Are All Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.** We’re all the work of God’s hands!

But **Sin Corrupts God’s Creation.** All the flaws and defects in us: physical, mental, emotional, all flow from one giant flaw, sin! Sin corrupts us in so many ways. The one we focus on today is how sin has affected the way we view and value life. Sin makes us judge life’s value based on criteria we think are important.

We haven’t done very well in what we value in life in the past. It’s been ethnicity, skin color, or economic position, as the basis for value and these have caused hatred, discrimination, and brutal slaughter. Now we use whether you’re born or not as a basis for value and end up with abortion being the most common surgical procedure done.

We need to remember that **Every Life is saved By God’s Grace! Turn to 1Timothy 2.** We have a message of our God who loved the work of His hands so much, He sent His 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 blame, shame and punishment for all sin and for every sinner. **Verses 3-4**, “*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 have sinned against life. In fact, in one sense, we can say He came *especially* for those who sinned against life and are crushed under that burden. He did this for all who believe in His saving grace!

Turn to Mark 10. We all share in the shame of not honoring life, when we never think of the children who will ever have the opportunity to be brought to Jesus through the waters of Holy Baptism and receive His love and forgiveness. **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 can join Jesus in being indignant with the disciples for trying to prevent children from coming to Him. But if we do nothing and say nothing about the 3,200 abortions every single day in this country, we also prevent children from coming to Jesus Christ! Jesus’ rebuke should ring in our ears as well, *“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God”*.

We Must Speak Up for Life! When we don’t talk about 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. This issue touches every age and every human situation! The message of the Gospel is the most powerful and positive Life message in the universe!

Value All life! We need to be influencing society rather than being *“tossed back and forth”* and riding the waves of whatever our culture sees as right. Our society desperately needs us to teach people how to welcome, care for, and value every life. We need to proclaim our faith in a God who, through Jesus Christ, welcomes all, cares for all, and gives all value, no matter what the situation might be! In Jesus Christ, there’s always hope!

Let’s speak the truth of life more among ourselves. Let’s educate ourselves, not just on life issues, but on what Christ’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 God’s truth about the value and sanctity of human life, out into our society and share it, boldly and courageously, and always in love! May we speak the truth of Jesus Christ who gives value to each and every human life, and is the *source* of that value! Let’s support Life!