

Be Resolute About Life's Value  
January 15, 2012  
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Your learner's guide for today's lesson starts with a FILL IN THE BLANK question: "Life is \_\_\_\_\_." How would YOU fill in the blank...let's throw out some ideas.  
LIFE IS \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember the board game, THE GAME OF LIFE? Anybody ever play it? What was it like? What would you say the objective of that board game was?

Everyone you meet wants to have a GOOD LIFE. The foundations of our nation are based on LIFE, LIBERTY, and the PURSUIT of HAPPINESS. But does that PURSUIT of a GOOD LIFE reflect a RESPECT for LIFE or just a GREED for our own SATISFACTION?

We started by filling in the blank: "LIFE IS \_\_\_\_\_."

As Christians, what we really need to focus on is the question: WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT LIFE?

Christ said in John 10:10

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (THE ABUNDANT LIFE!)

One week from today is the anniversary of the Roe vs Wade Supreme Court Decision that legalized abortion. It was passed 39 years ago. That means for those of us in this room, legalized abortion has been the law for most of our lives. For our kids, ALL of their lives. In those 39 years about 50 MILLION abortions have been performed. 50 MILLION unborn children have been killed.

This coming Wednesday is Sanctity of Life Day in our country.

Every year on the third Sunday of January many Southern Baptists dedicate the Sunday School lesson to THE SANCTITY OF LIFE.

Against that backdrop, WHO will convey to the next and future generations what God says about THE SANCTITY OF LIFE? WHO will advocate in the legal and political system for the unborn? WHO will provide support for the options of ADOPTION and ABSTINENCE? If not YOU and ME...WHO?

The burden of furthering a BIBLICAL VIEW on the SANCTITY OF LIFE is on believers in Christ like you and me.

So what does scripture say about the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE?

- Question: What is the most basic command in scripture about RESPECTING HUMAN LIFE? (Think "The Big 10"). Thou shalt not kill. The sixth commandment. (Exodus 20:13 and again in Deut. 5:17)
- Does "thou shalt not kill" mean we can't go to war? What about self defense? What about killing a bug?
- Thou shalt not MURDER. Premeditated killing with malice.

God values the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE because he tells us NOT TO KILL another human being in an INTENTIONAL and UNJUSTIFIED manner.

Aside from the command "thou shalt not kill", how does scripture describe the VALUE God places on HUMAN LIFE?

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 49 verses 1 and 5:

*Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name...(then in verse 5) ...he who formed me in the womb to be his servant..."*  
*(Isaiah new God ordained his service before he was even born!)*

Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 1:4-5:

*"The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations'"*

David knew God's view of the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

Psalms 139:13-16 says it so BEAUTIFULLY about David and about YOU AND ME:

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that fully well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be"*

- David acknowledges God created him from the moment of conception in his mother's womb
- He acknowledges that he is "fearfully and wonderfully" created as one of God's "wonderful works"
- God knew his "frame" when he was conceived...this disputes the argument that a child is not a person until they develop a "self concept"...God cared about that little "frame" in his mother's womb
- He says, God, "you saw my unformed body"...even before I was fully formed you, God, were watching over me and caring for me
- And this is my favorite part:
- "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before even one of them came to be." God had written the story of David's life (and YOURS and MINE) BEFORE WE BREATHED OUR FIRST BREATH.

An unbelieving person would say that's just David's opinion. But YOU AND I KNOW it's the TRUTH of scripture.

Question for some discussion: What "reasons" have you heard people give in their attempts to justify the act of abortion? (Discussion)

Technique called Trot out A Toddler (Need a Volunteer)

By Scott Klusendorf

<http://www.prolifetraining.com/FiveMinute3.asp>

Suppose, for example, that a friend justifies elective abortion this way: "Women have a right to make their own private decisions. What goes on in the bedroom is their business and no one else's." When you hear this, don't panic. Trot out a toddler:

Pro-lifer: You say that privacy is the issue. Pretend that I have a two-year old in front of me (hold out your hand at waist level to illustrate this). May I kill him as long as I do it in the privacy of the bedroom?

Abortion-choicer: That's silly—of course not!

Pro-lifer: Why not?

Abortion-choicer: Because he's a human being.

Pro-lifer: Ah. If the unborn are human, like the toddler, we shouldn't kill the unborn in the name of privacy anymore than we'd kill a toddler for that reason.

Abortion-choicer: You're comparing apples with oranges, two things that are completely unrelated. Look, killing toddlers is one thing. Killing a fetus that is not a human being is quite another.

Pro-lifer: Ah. That's the issue, isn't it? Are the unborn human beings, like toddlers? That is the one issue that matters.

Staying on Message

Notice that you've not yet argued for the humanity of the unborn. You'll do that later. For now, all you are doing is framing the discussion around one key question: What is the unborn? Keep bringing the debate back to that one issue:

Abortion-choicer: But many poor women cannot afford to raise another child.

Pro-lifer: When human beings get expensive, may we kill them? Getting back to my toddler example, suppose a large family collectively decides to quietly dispose of its three youngest children to help ease the family budget. Is that okay?

Abortion-choicer: Well, no, but aborting a fetus is not the same as killing children.

Pro-lifer: So, once again, the issue is: What is the unborn? Is the fetus the same as a human being? We can't escape that question, can we?

Abortion-choicer: But what about a woman who's been raped? Every time she looks at that kid she's going to remember what happened to her. If that's not hardship, what is?

Pro-lifer: I agree that we should provide compassionate care for the victim and it should be the best care possible. That's not at issue here. It's your proposed solution I'm struggling to understand. Tell me, how should a civil society treat innocent human beings that remind us of a painful event? Is it okay to kill them so we can feel better? Can we, for example, kill a toddler who reminds her mother of a rape?

Abortion-choicer: No, I wouldn't do that.

Pro-lifer: I wouldn't either. But again, isn't that because you and I both agree that it's wrong to kill innocent human beings, even if they do remind us of a painful event?

Abortion-choicer: But you don't understand how much this woman has suffered. Put yourself in her shoes. How would you feel?

Pro-lifer: You're right. I don't understand her feelings. How could I? How could anyone? I'm just asking if hardship justifies homicide? Can we, for instance, kill toddlers who remind us of painful events?

Once you've framed the discussion around the status of the unborn, you can make a scientific and philosophic case for the pro-life position.

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I think the most compelling case for life existing in the womb is today's 3D and 4D ultrasound technology! Just seeing that little person in there has proven to be very convincing to many.

James Dobson said:

"Only in rare instances when the life of the mother is literally at stake do I feel we have the moral authority to destroy a developing fetus. My reasoning is based on this simple question: Is there any fundamental difference between a baby who resides in his mother's uterus and one who has made an eight inch journey down the birth canal?"

"Is there anything particularly mystical about the expulsion from the mother's body that would account for a transformation from mere protoplasm to a human being with an eternal soul?"

Mother Teresa said:

*"The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love but to use any violence to get what they want."*

The SANCTITY OF LIFE isn't just about the ABORTION ISSUE. What are some other areas that involve the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE?

- Destruction of human embryos
- Assisted suicide
- Euthanasia
- Abuse and neglect of the elderly
- Rationed healthcare

A word about sensitivity: This is a HOT and very EMOTIONAL issue.

- The way I express my beliefs can have an effect that isn't glorifying to God.
- How do I know the other person isn't suffering still with the guilt of an abortion?
- I would urge all of us to be THOUGHTFUL and PRAYERFUL in how we discuss this issue with others, especially unbelievers:
- We should be Biblical in our beliefs; FIRM in our convictions; but Sensitive and Loving in our discourse on this issue.

So, What's The Takeaway?

How can we be RESOLUTE in our stance on the value of life?

- As we just discussed, we need to promote a BIBLICAL VIEW on the issue of the Sanctity of Life
- We should seek to ensure that our laws, officials, judicial processes, and personal actions protect innocent life.
- We must be careful to avoid any attitudes or actions that diminish life's value.

If you want to be equipped on the arguments and answers to them Randy Alcorn wrote a book: ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments. And here is a link from the table of contents with some helpful thoughts on this:

<http://lifestrategies.thingseternal.com/topics/abortion/prochoice-arguments.html>

Some other resources:

One Minute on Pro Life: <http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/A000000558.cfm>

Ten Second Response: <http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/A000000557.cfm>

Preparing for a Pro Life Speech (Contains some good tips): <http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/A000000560.cfm>

Focus on the Family Sanctity of Life Guide: [http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/pdf/2012\\_SOHL\\_Handbook\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/pdf/2012_SOHL_Handbook_FINAL.pdf)