

Title: The Sanctity of Human Life

Passage: Selected Scriptures

Summary

- Biblical view of human life
 - The unborn child is a person from the moment of conception.
- Encouragement and comfort
 - God forgives entirely
 - God heals wholly
 - God wants to restore you completely
- Words of exhortation
 - Consider being involved and supporting local Pregnancy Care Center.
 - Consider foster care or adoption.
 - Consider supporting political candidates and laws that protect the unborn.
 - Be intentional in making disciples.
 - Be full of grace for those who have had an abortion or have an unplanned pregnancy.

Possible Discussion Questions

- How do you see God in the creation of life including the surrounding circumstances?
 - How may you grow in your trust and hope in God's grace over all your sins (past, present, future)?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

January

- set apart to honor the Sanctity of Human Life
- In light of Roe v. Wade (January 22, 1973)

Overview

- Biblical view of human life, which starts at conception
- Encouragement and comfort to those who have been involved in abortion
- Words of exhortation

I. Biblical Support that Human Life Begins at Conception

Psalms 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.

- God is our intimate and creative designer of life.
 - "For you formed my inward parts"

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Galatians 1:15

But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,

- An unborn baby, while visibly hidden, is still seen by God.

Baby

- special combination of 23 chromosomes each from the father and mother.
- After 2 weeks, there is a discernible heartbeat
- After 6 weeks, fingers have formed.
- After 43 days, brain waves
- After 9 weeks, unique fingerprints. Gender of the baby already distinguished.

Adult

- Brain waves and heart beats = vital signs of life
- When brain waves or heart beat stop, then medically speaking life has ceased.
- We must apply the same standard to the unborn baby.

Psalms 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

- pointing to his own sinful nature even from birth.
- From the moment of conception, distinct being.

Exodus 21:22-25

"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

- Two situations
 - If fight among adults causes a premature birth, but no harm - there is still a penalty: a fine.
 - If fight among adults causes a premature birth, but there is harm - there is still a penalty: proportional to the harm - life for life

- Both the woman and unborn child are given equal legal protection
- If an accidental killing of an unborn child is given such severe punishment, how much more is the intentional killing of an unborn child.

New Testament

Luke 1:41-44

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

- Word: baby
 - Reference to the life within the womb
 - Same word to describe life outside of the womb as well as inside the womb (baby laid in a manger)
- References to actual human behavior within the womb.
- The life in the womb is not merely a fetus or a clump of cells but life.

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

- the incarnation of Jesus didn't begin when he was born.
- Life began with conception in Mary's womb.

Summary:

The unborn child is a person from the moment of conception.

Common Objections

What about unborn children who will have birth defects - shouldn't parents abort to save that child from a lifetime of suffering?

- Response: would it be ok to put to death the child like that after he or she was born?
- If it is not ok to kill after one is born, then what makes it ok to kill before they are born?

Psalms 100:3

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

- God creates all of life.

What about a pregnancy involuntarily caused by rape or incest?

- Would we consider killing a life after its birth even conceived by rape or incest?

- Are we committing another sin for another?
- Response: likewise, if not ok to kill the life after birth, how can permit before birth however difficult the circumstances?

What about the fact women have freedom to choose?

- Individual freedom is important
- But unlimited freedom is not a right. There are clear restrictions to life: laws against driving drunk, etc.
- Likewise, the moral duty to honor life supersedes the difficulties of carrying for life.

I'm personally against abortion but I don't support laws against abortion.

- If believe an act really takes an innocent life, then we should not be morally persuaded by others.
- Ex: Would you say you're against drunk driving but also against laws that would restrict drunk driving.
- The government is instituted by God to protect us against evil of others.

Book Resources:

Abortion - R.C. Sprout

Why Pro-Life? - Randy Alcorn

The Case for Life - Scott Klusendorf

Abortion is sin - the sin of murder.

- God is a holy and righteous God.
- God detests the killing of life and judges all those who participate in it and who do nothing about it.
- Judgment is coming. Unless you have confessed and repented of sin, you will not see the kingdom of God.

But the good news:

- God is not only the judge of sin but also the savior of sinners and offer forgiveness.

II. Encouragement and Comfort for Those Involved in Abortion

A. God forgives entirely

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Psalms 103:11-12

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

God has paid the price for any part we have played in abortion - we are entirely forgiven when we come to Christ.

- Jesus doesn't see our sin but His righteousness that covers us.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

B. God heals wholly

- You need not live a life of regret always in the past.

Luke 7:50

And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- to the woman previously caught in adultery.
- Embrace the peace given through the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

C. God wants to restore you completely

- In Christ, you are not guilty. There is no more condemnation for you.
- When God looks at you, He doesn't see the sin of abortion but sees the righteousness of Christ.

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

III. Words of Exhortation

A. Consider being involved and supporting local Pregnancy Care Center

- Volunteer or financially support.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

B. Consider foster care or adoption

James 1:27

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

C. Consider supporting political candidates and laws that protect the unborn

- If one doesn't take care of the unborn (most vulnerable on earth), how else will you honor life otherwise outside the womb?

D. Be intentional in making disciples around you.

- 84 percent of abortions are by single women.
- There are many lives that need disciplining and mentoring in all parts of the city.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

E. Be full of grace for those who have had an abortion or have an unplanned pregnancy.

- Come alongside others and embrace them. Love them because both lives are precious.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Proverbs 24:11-12

Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

Psalms 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."