




GOSPEL ANSWERS to CULTURAL CONCERNS

STUDY GUIDE







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# INTRODUCTION

Genesis 1:26-28

*Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living that moves on the earth.'*

**God is personally \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.**

Genesis 1:1

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

Nehemiah 9:6

*You are the Lord, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.*

Ephesians 3:9

*And to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things...*

Revelation 4:11

*Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.*

Colossians 1:16

*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Psalms 139:13

*For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

John 1:3

*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Jeremiah 10:12-13

*It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. 13 When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.*

## **He is pleased with His creation.**

1 Timothy 4:4

*For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...*

Genesis 1:31

*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

Psalms 139:14

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

## **God is personally \_\_\_\_\_ with all people.**

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.*

Genesis 1:27

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

## **God is personally conferring \_\_\_\_\_ to all people.**

Genesis 1:28-30

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in*



its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so.

**God is personally charging a blessed \_\_\_\_\_ to all people.**

*Genesis 1:28-30*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so.*

As God blessed the sea and sky creatures, so too he blessed humanity. Be fruitful and multiply. This motif recurs throughout Genesis in association with divine blessing (see 9:1, 7; 17:20; 28:3; 35:11; 48:4) and serves as the basis of the biblical view that raising faithful children is a part of God's creation plan for mankind. God's creation plan is that the whole earth should be populated by those who know him and who serve wisely as his vice-regents or representatives... These commands are not, however, a mandate to exploit the earth and its creatures to satisfy human greed, for the fact that Adam and Eve were 'in the image of God' implies God's expectation that human beings will use the earth wisely and govern it with the same sense of responsibility and care that God has toward the whole of his creation.<sup>1</sup>

**ESV Study Bible**

*Romans 8:18-25*

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

*There was a time when the church was very powerful - in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society...But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the 20th (now 21st) century.<sup>2</sup>*

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

# SANCTITY OF LIFE

*Because we are made in the image of God, every life matters from conception. Because we carry the cross of Christ, we care for those who cannot care for themselves at every stage of life.*

## 2 Truths about the Sanctity of Life

1. God cares for people in the womb.
2. God cares for people from beginning to end.

### Truth #1: God cares for people in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- The womb contains a person who is formed in the image of God.

*Genesis 1:26-28*

*Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living that moves on the earth.'*

*Job 10:8-13*

*Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether. Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.*

*If the unborn is not human, no justification is necessary. If the unborn is human, no justification is adequate.<sup>3</sup>*

**Gregory Koukl**

Think of a little girl named Rachel. Rachel is two months old, but she is still six weeks away from being a full-term baby. She was born prematurely at 24 weeks, in the middle of her mother's second trimester. On the day of her birth Rachel weighed one pound, nine ounces, but dropped to just under a pound soon after. She was so small she could rest in the palm of her daddy's hand. She was a tiny, living, human person. Heroic measures were taken to save this child's life. Why? Because we have an obligation to protect, nurture, and care for other humans who would die without our help—especially little children. Rachel was a vulnerable and valuable human being. But get this...if a doctor came into the hospital room and, instead of caring for Rachel, took the life of this little girl as she lay quietly nursing at her mother's breast, it would be homicide. However, if this same little girl—the very same Rachel was inches away resting inside her mother's womb, she could be legally killed by abortion.<sup>4</sup>

Gregory Koukl

- The womb contains a person who is a \_\_\_\_\_ work of God.

*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.*

- Even (or especially) in the case of disability

*John 9:1-3*

*As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."*

- Even (or especially) in the case of difficulty

*Genesis 50:20*

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

- The womb contains a person who is in relationship with God.
  - He fashions them.

*Job 31:15*

*Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?*

- He knows them.

*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.*

- He values them.

*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.*

## Realities of Abortion

**God is in control of the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.**

*Job 33:4*

*The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

*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.*

**Man rejects God's control when there are abortions.**

*Don't get me wrong. I love to preach the Bible. And I love to talk about the image of God and the protection of all human life. I hate this [Sanctity of Life] Sunday not because of what we have to say, but that we have to say it at all. The idea of aborting an unborn*



*child or abusing a born child or starving an elderly person...these ought all to be so self-evidently wrong that a 'Sanctity of Human Life Sunday' ought to be as unnecessary as a 'Reality of Gravity Sunday.' We shouldn't have to say that parents shouldn't abort their children...*<sup>5</sup>

*Russell Moore*

## Abortion Statistics

- Following the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, elective abortion became illegal in Mississippi. An abortion shall only be permitted if it is deemed necessary to preserve the life of the mother or if the pregnancy was caused by rape. A formal charge of rape must be filed with an appropriate law enforcement official before the abortion can take place. The performance or attempted performance of an illegal abortion is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. No woman upon whom an abortion is performed or attempted may be charged or convicted of a criminal offense in the death of her own unborn child.<sup>6</sup>
- More than 60 million legal abortions have occurred in the United States since 1973.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2020 - 1 abortion took place every 34 seconds.<sup>8</sup>
- Around 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year. Six out of 10 (61%) of all unintended pregnancies, and 3 out of 10 (29%) of all pregnancies, end in induced abortion.<sup>9</sup>
- 50% surveyed said abortion is morally wrong; 42% said it is morally acceptable.<sup>10</sup>

## 2 Questions about Abortion

- What about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What about \_\_\_\_\_?

*Deuteronomy 24:16*

*Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.*

*Matthew 1*

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ...*

- God takes unthinkable \_\_\_\_\_ and turns it into unimaginable good for His unattainable \_\_\_\_\_.

*Romans 8:28*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Acts 2:22-24

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

## Responses to Abortion

If you have had an \_\_\_\_\_ – confess your sin to God.

- He forgives.

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.

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

- He restores.

James 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

If you have been \_\_\_\_\_ – confess your sin to God.

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.<sup>11</sup>

Martin Luther King Jr.

- Start learning more about the realities around you.
- Start serving and caring for women and unborn children.
- Start fostering and adopting children.
- Start supporting families who foster and adopt children.

**Truth #2: God cares for people from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.**

## **Realities regarding End of Life**

**God is in control of the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.**

- Man tries to take control through homicide or suicide.

*Deuteronomy 32:39*

*See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.*

## **Statistics regarding End of Life**

### **All homicides (2020)<sup>12</sup>**

- Number of deaths: 24,576
- Deaths per 100,000: 7.5
  - Increased by 30% from 2019

### **All suicides (2020)<sup>13</sup>**

- Number of deaths: 45,979
- Deaths per 100,000: 14.0

*Job 1:21*

*And he said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.'*

*We have dominion over the world around us, but we do not have dominion over other human beings, to make decisions of whether they can live or die, live freely or be exploited for the appetite of other human persons. Every person recognizes some aspect of human dominion- even those who would suggest that human beings are just another species or a parasite on the planet. These people, after all, direct their advocacy in moral terms, not to flies or dogs or even other primates—but to human beings, of whom they recognize there is something unique in the world.<sup>14</sup>*

**Russell Moore**

## **Responses to End of Life**

**Stop seeing your life as \_\_\_\_\_.**

*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.

*Galatians 1:15*

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

**Stop seeing the lives of \_\_\_\_\_ as unvalued.**

*Matthew 6:26*

*Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*

**Start trusting the Lord with the control of your \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Romans 8:38-39*

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*John 11:25-26*

*Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'*





# SEXUALITY

*Because we are made in the image of God, every relationship matters.  
Because we carry the cross of Christ, we commit to  
God's design for all relationships.*

*Genesis 2:18-25*

*Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

## God's Design

One \_\_\_\_\_, one \_\_\_\_\_, bound together for \_\_\_\_\_

*There is not one instance in all of God's Word where God advocates or celebrates sex outside of a marriage relationship between a husband and a wife. Not one.<sup>15</sup>*

*David Platt*

- Permanent
- Free
- Unashamed

## Man's Destruction

**Homosexuality, Polygamy, Adultery, Divorce**

## Statistics regarding Marriage

In the 2019 edition of its annual survey on “values and beliefs,” Gallup discovered the following.<sup>16</sup>

- 89% of Americans think married men and women having an affair is “morally wrong,” but when it comes to unmarried men and women having sex, 71% said it was “morally acceptable.”
- “sex between an unmarried man and woman,” 71% said “morally acceptable” and 28% said “morally wrong.”
- “married men and women having an affair,” 9% said it was “morally acceptable.” 89% said it was “morally wrong.”
- 58% said it is morally wrong for teenagers to have sex but 38% said it was okay, acceptable.

20% of those surveyed in nation-wide Gallup said polygamy is morally  
\_\_\_\_\_.<sup>17</sup>

## Truths regarding Man’s Destruction of Marriage

### Adultery

*Exodus 20:14*

*You shall not commit adultery.*

*Leviticus 20:10*

*If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*

*Proverbs 6:32*

*He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.*

*Proverbs 5:3-20*

*For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol; she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. And now, O sons, listen to me, and do not depart from the words of my mouth. Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless... Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth ...Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?*

- Stop celebrating adultery by watching it, laughing at crude jokes, dressing immodestly, and flirting inappropriately.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

*Likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.*

## Polygamy

- God \_\_\_\_\_ polygamy.

Deuteronomy 17:17

*And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away...*

Leviticus 18:18

*And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive...*

- God \_\_\_\_\_ for polygamists.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

*If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn, but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.*

- This is not an endorsement of polygamy.
- This is \_\_\_\_\_ for people.

## Divorce

Matthew 19:1-9

*Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, 'Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.' They said to*

him, 'Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?' He said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.'

## Statistics regarding Divorce

43% of Americans agreed that the institution of marriage is becoming obsolete.<sup>18</sup>

73% of U.S. adults say divorce is "morally acceptable."<sup>19</sup>

*Nominal Christianity incentivizes divorce by, for example, giving social pressure to early marriage without an accompanying accountability to the church for the keeping of the vows. The ideal of a Christian marriage without a strong community of discipleship and discipline is a dangerous combination. The romantic notion of finding a soul mate; leads to the commitment of marriage without the communal bonds it takes to hold on to those commitments.<sup>20</sup>*

*Russell Moore*

## Reminders regarding Divorce

God \_\_\_\_\_ divorce.

- Divorce is always a result of sin.
- Divorce is almost always sinful.

God \_\_\_\_\_ divorce.

- One allowance for believers
  - Unrepentant Adultery
    - Not looking for reasons
    - Never desirable
- One allowance between a believer and an unbeliever
  - Unsaved Abandonment

Remarriage is biblically permissible only after biblical grounds for divorce.

Remarriage is biblically permissible only after \_\_\_\_\_ occurs and grace is given.

## Responses regarding Marriage Matters

### Mourn divorce through prayer.

*James 1:20*

*For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

### Express compassion with conviction.

*Matthew 9:35-38*

*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'*

#### If you are single...

- \_\_\_\_\_ your singleness to advance the gospel.

#### If you are married...

- Love your spouse in a way that portrays the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### If you are considering divorce...

- \_\_\_\_\_ the preciousness and power of the gospel.

#### If you are divorced...

- Rest in the gospel in your singleness or possibly in a future marriage.

## Statistics regarding Sex Trafficking

- Modern-day slavery is a \$150 billion industry annually.<sup>21</sup>
- 1 in 4 victims of modern-day slavery is a child.<sup>22</sup>
- 187 human trafficking cases reported in Mississippi.<sup>23</sup>
- Roughly half (450) of the sample group (including men, women, and children) were used to make pornographic films.<sup>24</sup>

## Truths regarding Sex Trafficking

- Understand the tragedy of man's sin.
  - Sex trafficking is fueled by pornography.
  - Sex trafficking is fought by the gospel.
- Understand the truth of God's heart.
  - God denounces physical abuse.



Exodus 21:20-27

*When a man strikes his slave, male or female, with a rod and the slave dies under his hand, he shall be avenged. But if the slave survives a day or two, he is not to be avenged, for the slave is his money. 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. When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.*

- God condemns any type of human trafficking.

Exodus 21:16

*Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.*

## Responses to Sex Trafficking

### Proclaim the reality of God's plan.

- God \_\_\_\_\_ is the owner of all people.

Psalm 24:1

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...*

- Jesus came to serve and to give His life.

Mark 10:45

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

- Believers must attempt to provide ways of \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 82:4

*Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

# Truths regarding Pornography

Matthew 5:28

*But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

## Statistics regarding Pornography<sup>25</sup>

- Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites.
- 47% of families in the U.S. reported that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14.
- 70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.
- 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis.
- 33% of women aged 25 and under search for porn at least once per month.
- 55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.

## Responses to Pornography

**Replace your closet of sinful secrets with a closet of prayerful praise.**

Job 31:1

*I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?*

*Each of the Bible's sexual prohibitions is encapsulated in the all-encompassing command 'Flee from sexual immorality' (1 Corinthians 6:18).<sup>26</sup>*

*David Platt*

**Replace your \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ acts with God-glorifying mission.**

1 Corinthians 6:18

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, who you have from God. You are not your own for you were bought with a price. So glorify God with your body.*

*Oh to think of it! That Jesus, God in the flesh, took the penalty upon himself for all our adultery and all our pornography and every*

*single lust we have ever had or will ever have. Indeed, Jesus has paid a steep price for our bodies.<sup>27</sup>*

**David Platt**

*The stakes in the current conflict over sex are more critical, more central, and more essential than in any controversy the church has ever known. This is a momentous statement, but I make it soberly, without exaggeration. Conflict over sex these days is not just challenging tradition, orthodoxy, and respect for authority in areas such as ordination, marriage, and gender roles. And it does not just affect critically important doctrines like the sanctity of human life, the authority and trustworthiness of scripture, the Trinity, and the incarnation of Christ. Rather, war over sex among Christians is now raging over absolutely essential matters of faith without which no one can truly be a Christian in the first place—matters such as sin, salvation, the gospel, and the identity of God himself.<sup>28</sup>*

**Daniel Heimbach**

# IDENTITY

*Because we are made in the image of God, every person matters.  
Because we carry the cross of Christ, we maintain the identity He has given us.*

*Romans 12:1-2*

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

## Expectations

**Sacrifice your \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.**

**Surrender your \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit.**

**Saturate your \_\_\_\_\_ with the Word.**

*John 17:14-19*

*I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*

- **Accept the cleansing of the Word.**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*Ephesians 5:25-27*

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in*

*splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

- Acknowledge the \_\_\_\_\_ from the world.

## **Statistics regarding Homosexuality**

- 7.1% of Americans identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.<sup>29</sup>
- 20.8% of Americans from Generation Z identify as LGBT.<sup>30</sup>
- 1.3 million adults identify as transgender.<sup>31</sup>
- 300,000 youth (13-17) identify as transgender.<sup>32</sup>

## **Truths regarding Homosexuality**

*Leviticus 18:22*

*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.*

*Romans 1:26-27*

*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

## **We have exchanged God's pattern for our preferences.**

*Proverbs 14:12*

*There is a way that seems right to a man but its end is the way to death.*

- We are bent toward sexual \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-8*

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*

# **We have exchanged the Word of God for the experience of man.**

*Jude 7*

*Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise*

*indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

*1 Timothy 1:8-11*

*Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.*

- **Stop assuming that the Bible is out of date and that the authors wouldn't \_\_\_\_\_ the culture.**

*In a world of concubines and temple prostitutes, a Christian sexual ethic was just as freakish and countercultural in the first-century Roman Empire as it is today, if not more so.<sup>33</sup>*

**Russell Moore**

- **Stop assuming that you are \_\_\_\_\_ such sins.**

*Romans 1:21*

*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

*Romans 3:23*

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*

*1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Matthew 7:1-5*

*Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother,*

*'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

## Truths about Gender Identity

See yourself as God sees you.

- Take up your cross and \_\_\_\_\_ yourself.

*Matthew 16:24*

*Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'*

*Sin is our attempt to define who we are (establish our entity) and how we live (achieve our destiny) apart from who God is and how God has designed us to live.<sup>34</sup>*

*David Platt*

- Trust God's design and plan for you.

*Oh, it is joy to feel Jesus living in you; to find your heart all taken up by Him; to be reminded of His love by His seeking communion with you at all times, not by your painful attempts to abide in Him. He is our life, our strength, our salvation...I am no longer anxious about anything...for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. So if God should place me in great perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength. I have no fear that His resources will be unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine - for He is mine, and is with me and dwells in me.<sup>35</sup>*

*Hudson Taylor*

Love \_\_\_\_\_ as God loves them.

- Take up your cross and deny yourself.

*Matthew 16:24*

*Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'*

- Tailor your responses to \_\_\_\_\_ grace.

# RACE

*Because we are made in the image of God, every race matters. Because we carry the cross of Christ, we stand for those who have been marginalized, minimized, and maligned.*

## Statistics regarding Racism

- More than 65% of Americans say racial and ethnic discrimination is a big problem in the U.S.<sup>36</sup>
- 55.8% of single issue violent crimes were motivated by a race/ethnicity/ancestry bias.<sup>37</sup>

## Truths regarding Race

All people share universal dignity and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Genesis 3:20*

*The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

- We have a common ancestry.
- We are a common race.

*[Speaking of "race" and "racial"] As loaded as the terms are, they are too embedded in our language and in the thousands of books and articles and sermons and lectures and conversations that make up the world we must relate to there is no escaping this historically, and, in the present day, the problems we face are conceived along racial lines understood mainly as color lines.<sup>38</sup>*

*John Piper*

All people are united in humanity and \_\_\_\_\_ in ethnicity.

*Genesis 11:9*

*Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.*



Acts 17:23-29

*For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.*

**All peoples are \_\_\_\_\_ loved by God.**

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

1 John 2:2

*He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Genesis 12:1-3

*Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'*

Psalms 67

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!*

Matthew 28:18-20

*And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Acts 15:7-9

*And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.'*

Acts 28:28

*Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.*

- **Because God loves all peoples, we must proclaim to all peoples.**

Luke 24:45-49

*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.'*

- **Because God loves all peoples, He deserves \_\_\_\_\_ from all peoples.**

Revelation 5:9-10

*And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'*

Revelation 7:9-10

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,*

*standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'*

- **Because God loves all peoples, His church should reflect all peoples.**

*1 Peter 2:9-10*

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

### **Remember...**

- **Universal dignity and value**
- **United in \_\_\_\_\_ and diverse in ethnicity**
- **Unconditionally loved by God**

*Romans 5:12-21*

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

While homogeneity in churches simply reinforces the status quo of society, the biblical evidence shows us that the gospel broke down and cut across ethnic, social, economic, and cultural barriers in ways never before seen in history.<sup>39</sup>

Aubrey Sequeira

## Therefore...

Racism is a \_\_\_\_\_, divisive \_\_\_\_\_ against God's design.

- Racism is wrongfully \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Skin tone
  - Hair texture
  - Facial features
  - Ancestry
  - Language
  
- Racism is \_\_\_\_\_ wicked.
  - Always bends toward hierarchy
    - Preferring thoughts, feelings, words, and actions from one race
    - Ignoring or rejecting thoughts, feelings, words, and actions from one race
    - Expectations
    - Relationships
    - Laws
    - Policies
    - Procedures
    - Systems
    - Structures
  - Always stems from pride

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'? And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Jonah 4:1-11

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Do you do well to be angry?' Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Do you do well to be angry for the plant?' And he said, 'Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.' And the Lord said, 'You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?'

- Always demonstrates \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? How do you read it?' 27 And he answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.' But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?'

He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' And Jesus said to him, 'You go, and do likewise.'

Acts 10:34

So Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality...'

## **The church must avoid racism in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.**

Acts 10:34-43

So Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

- **Resist hierarchy.**

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

- **Repel \_\_\_\_\_.**

James 4:6

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'

Proverbs 11:2

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

- **Reject partiality.**

*James 2:1*

*My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.*

*Philippians 4:8-9*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*Ephesians 4:29-32*

*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

*Matthew 7:12*

*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ of intentional expressions of racism.

*Acts 3:19*

*Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,*

- **Recognize our \_\_\_\_\_ actions.**

*Psalms 19:12-14*

*Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

*Romans 12:2*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Joshua 24:14-15*

*Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt,*

and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

- Rejoice in the healing process.

*2 Corinthians 7:9-10*

*As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

**The church must advance the kingdom of God through \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_ community.**

*Galatians 3:28*

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ carefully.

*James 1:19-21*

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ peacefully.

*Proverbs 18:2*

*A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.*

- Lament patiently.

*Romans 12:15*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ continually.

*1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*

*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. Love never ends.*



- **Live eternally.**

*Revelation 7:9-10*

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

## **The church must not assign guilt or shame for sins of other people or sins of which we have repented.**

*Romans 8:1*

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

## **The church must examine our hearts and any \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.**

*Psalms 139:23-24*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

*2 Corinthians 13:5*

*Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*

*Matthew 18:15-20*

*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.*

*Galatians 6:1-5*

*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.*

**The church must pray and \_\_\_\_\_ for justice.**

*Micah 6:8*

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

- What does this look like?
  - Detest hierarchy of race.
  - Celebrate interracial marriages.
  - Honor multi-racial families.
  - Enjoy diverse friendships.
  - Instruct against racism.

**The church must recognize that racism is a \_\_\_\_\_ battle.**

- Racism deceives.

*Revelation 12:9-10*

*And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'*

- Racism destroys.

*John 10:10*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

- Racism divides.

*Romans 16:17-20*

*I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

**The church must rest in the gospel of Jesus Christ as our \_\_\_\_\_ hope.**

*Colossians 2:13-15*

*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

*Hebrews 2:14-15*

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

*Racial harmony is a blood issue, not just a social issue...The  
bloodline of Jesus Christ is deeper than the bloodlines of race.  
The death and resurrection of the Son of God for sinners is the  
only sufficient power to bring the bloodlines of race into the single  
bloodline of the cross.<sup>40</sup>*

**John Piper**

# POVERTY

*Because we are made in the image of God, every person matters.  
Because we carry the cross of Christ, we provide for those in need.*

James 2:14-17

*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 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? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

*Tell me what you think about money, and I can tell you what you think about God.<sup>41</sup>*

*Billy Graham*

## Statistics regarding Global Finances

### The Poor

- 1.2 billion people in 111 developing countries live in acute multidimensional poverty.<sup>42</sup>
- 350 million children live in extreme poverty, which means they go hungry on a daily basis. In America today, it is believed that 17 million children are hungry.<sup>43</sup>
- 3.1 million children die from undernutrition every year.<sup>44</sup>
- Globally, a child dies approximately every 10 seconds from malnutrition.<sup>45</sup>

### The Wealthy

- Receiving<sup>46</sup>
  - Low Income.....< \$1,045
  - Lower-middle income.....\$1,046 – 4,095
  - Upper-middle income.....\$4,096 -12,695
  - High income .....> \$12,695

- The Giving
  - 5% of churchgoers tithe.<sup>47</sup>
  - Christians today are giving at 2.5% of income; during the Great Depression it was 3.3%.<sup>48</sup>
  - American Christians spend 95% of offerings on home-based ministry, 4.5% on cross-cultural efforts in already reached people groups, and .5% to reach the unreached.<sup>49</sup>
- The Realities
  - In 2021, Americans spent \$133.5 billion on tv subscriptions and digital, physical and theatrical entertainment.<sup>50</sup>
  - The US pet industry reached \$123.6 billion in sales in 2021.<sup>51</sup>
  - The US weight-loss market made a whopping \$72.6 billion.<sup>52</sup>

*The Church Jesus called out of this world to be separated unto Himself has, to a great extent, has forgotten her reason for existence. Her loss of balance is seen in the current absence of holiness, spiritual reality and concern for the lost. Substituted for the life she once knew are teaching and reaching for prosperity, pleasure, politics and social involvement.<sup>53</sup>*

*K.P. Yohannan*

## Truths regarding Finances

### Earning

- \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 6:9-11*

*How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.*

*Proverbs 12:11*

*Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.*

*Proverbs 14:23*

*In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.*

- **The Bible never encourages retirement!**

## Spending

- Spend intentionally.
- Save \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ for future expenditures.
  - Provide for expected (and unexpected) scenarios.
  - Questions to ask yourself
    - Is my saving reducing or increasing my dependence on God?
    - Is my saving going to help advance the kingdom of God?
    - Would it be wiser to use these funds to advance the kingdom of God amidst current needs?
- Borrow \_\_\_\_\_.
  - If you're not in debt, avoid it.
  - If you are in debt, pay it.

## Giving

- Two \_\_\_\_\_
  - Physical needs - \_\_\_\_\_ for the needy

Matthew 6:11

*Give us this day our daily bread...*

Leviticus 19:9-10

*When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.*

Leviticus 14:21-22

*But if he is poor and cannot afford so much, then he shall take one male lamb for a guilt offering to be waved, to make atonement for him, and a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and a log of oil; also two turtledoves or two pigeons, whichever he can afford. The one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.*

Proverbs 21:13

*Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.*

- Spiritual needs - \_\_\_\_\_ the needy

Matthew 6:12

*And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

- Two \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:19-20

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- We can live for temporal treasures that we cannot keep.
  - Materialism is not only wrong, it's \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 29:7

*A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.*

Philippians 3:20

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...*

*Did I firmly believe, as millions say they do, that the knowledge and practice of religion in this life influences destiny in another, then religion would mean to me everything. I would cast away earthly enjoyments as dross, earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences would never stay my hand, or seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be: What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?<sup>54</sup>*

**C.T. Studd (quoting a pamphlet given to him by an atheist)**

- We can live for eternal treasures that we cannot \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Generosity is not a huge sacrifice, it's humbly selfish.

Proverbs 16:8

*Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.*

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

Jim Elliot<sup>55</sup>

I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.<sup>56</sup>

John Wesley

- Two \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Our use of money demonstrates where our heart is.

Proverbs 3:9

Honor the Lord with your wealth...

God did not shower such great blessing on this nation for the Christians to live in extravagance, self-indulgence and spiritual weakness <sup>57</sup>

K.P. Yohannan

- Our use of money \_\_\_\_\_ where our heart goes.

- Two Perspectives

Matthew 6:22-23

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

- Shortsighted - eyes focused on things on \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 6:3-6

If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

Ecclesiastes 6:12

For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?



*It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.<sup>58</sup>*

C.S. Lewis

- Farsighted - eyes focused on treasure in \_\_\_\_\_

- Two Masters

Matthew 6:24

*No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

- Money on the throne - a life wasted in the pursuit of \_\_\_\_\_ on earth

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15

*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand*

- God on the throne - a life invested in the pursuit of wealth in heaven

Luke 12:32-34

*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

- Two Motivations

- Wrong motivation - \_\_\_\_\_
- Right motivation - \_\_\_\_\_

## Responses regarding Giving

- \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.
- Commit to the church.
- Work wisely.
- \_\_\_\_\_ simply.
- Give sacrificially.
- Tithe willingly.
- Help \_\_\_\_\_.
- Save humbly.
- Borrow sparingly.
- Invest \_\_\_\_\_.

*James 1:22-25*

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

*Revelation 22:17*

*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.*



# RESOURCES

## Sanctity of Life

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- Rebecca McLaughlin, *The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims*
- Albert Mohler, *The Gathering Storm: Secularism, Culture and the Church*
- Albert Mohler, *We Cannot Be Silent: Speaking Truth to a Culture Redefining Sex, Marriage and the Very Meaning of Right and Wrong*
- Russell Moore, *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families and Churches*
- Russell Moore, *Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel*
- Russell Moore and Andrew Walker, *The Gospel for Life: The Gospel and Abortion*
- David Platt, *Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age*

## Sexuality

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- Rebecca McLaughlin, *The Secular Creed: Engaging Five Contemporary Claims*
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## Identity

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- Brian Dollar, *Talk Now and Later: How to Lead Kids Through Life's Tough Topics*
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## Race

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- Michael Emerson and Christian Smith, *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*
- Tony Evans, *Oneness Embraced: A Kingdom Race Theology for Reconciliation, Unity and Justice*
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- Jemar Tisby, *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*

## Poverty

- David Platt, *Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age*
- Richard Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel: What Does God Expect of Us?*
- K.P. Yohannan, *Revolution in World Missions*
- [JoshuaProject.org](http://JoshuaProject.org)
- [Stratus.earth](http://Stratus.earth)

## **For Parents**

- Jaquelle Crowe, *This Changes Everything: How the Gospel Transforms the Teen Years*
- Brian Dollar, *Talk Now and Later: How to Lead Kids Through Life's Tough Topics*
- Russell Moore, *The Storm-Tossed Family: How the Cross Reshapes the Home*



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