

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

January 20, 2019 (Sanctity of Human Life Sunday)

Dr. Tim S. Smith

Protect and Serve

Scripture Passage: Genesis 1:27; 9:1-7; Matthew 5:21-22

The Point: God created humanity in His image, giving human life sacred value.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. The sanctity of human life continues from the womb to the grave.
- B. Every human being is of incredible value to our Creator God.
- C. As followers of Christ, we need to continually remind ourselves that God created all human life.
- D. Bearing God's image makes every person valuable and worthy of respect.

II. IN HIS IMAGE (Genesis 1:27)

- A. Genesis 1:1 records that God created everything that exists, the heavens and the earth.
- B. God is the source of life for all humans (v.27).
- C. "man" = the man, Adam, the one that all others have come from.
- D. What does "in the image of God" mean? Humans are not gods.
- E. Five qualities that allow humans to relate with God.
 - 1. Humans have intellect, including the power to reason.
 - 2. Humans possess and exhibit emotions.
 - 3. Humans have the power and freedom to make choices.
 - 4. Humans exercise dominion over the earth.
 - 5. Humans are spiritual beings.
- F. God created the aspect of gender in human beings with each having a different function.

III. TO BE PROTECTED (Genesis 9:1-7)

- A. After the waters had receded from the earth following the great flood, God spoke to Noah and told him to leave the ark.
- B. God blessed Noah's family and He told them that His purposes had not changed (v.1).
- C. The peaceful harmony that existed between humans and other living creatures before the fall was now gone (v.2).
- D. God has graciously provided everything we need for surviving and thriving as His people (v.3).
- E. Noah and his descendants could now add meat to their formerly vegetarian diet, but they were not to eat like the animals (v.4).
- F. God's covenant with Noah included this command to protect human life by requiring the life of any creature that took human life illegitimately (v.5).
- G. We are stewards of God's creation and exercise responsibility for the earth which demands that we value and protect human life, not harm it (v.6).
- H. We are to value human life and enjoy being part of God's purposes for the earth (v.7).

IV. IN ACTION AND ATTITUDE (Matthew 5:21-22)

A. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

B. Jesus challenged His hearers to reflect on some familiar scriptural teachings. His listeners were no doubt well-versed in the law, particularly the Ten Commandments (v.21).

1. "whoever murders will be subject to judgment" were not part of the original commandment.
2. These words reflect later application emphasizing accountable. Sinful actions have consequences!

C. Jesus provided three application of the commandment giving examples of sinful attitudes and actions that deeply damage people and have serious consequences (v.22).

1. "angry" = determining to bring harm to someone.
2. "insults" = working to do to harm to their reputation.
3. "fool" = They lost their mind and have nothing to offer. God expects His children to demonstrate that they value others by showing respect to all people.

D. God created humanity in His image, and when He did so, He ascribed to human life sacred value.

V. CONCLUSION & APPLICATION

A. Believers are to affirm the value of every person as being created in God's image.

B. Believers are to protect human life, advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves.

C. Believers are to demonstrate that they value everyone by showing respect to all people.

D. Teaching Ideas

1. Create Interest

- a. Have the group discuss what it means to be pro-life beyond being against abortion.

2. Closing Challenge

- a. How has God transformed your life? Share with the group at least one way in which God has brought about visible change through your journey.

E. Don't Forget!!!

1. Protect and Serve & Genesis 1:27; 9:1-7; Matthew 5:21-22

2. God created humanity in His image, giving human life sacred value.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.