



Today at Southland we are recognizing “**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.**” This particular Sunday is chosen because of its nearness to the anniversary date of the Supreme Court’s landmark decision in the Roe v. Wade case: January 22, 1973 – 45 years ago tomorrow.

Each year, this day provides an opportunity to declare our opposition to *any* way culture diminishes the sanctity of human life based on a person’s race,

state, condition, etc. For obvious reasons, this day is first and foremost about the taking of unborn lives through abortion. And yet, it extends to *any* issue that is truly one of BIBLICAL justice: the mistreatment and oppression of people valuable to God who cannot defend themselves. Positively, this is a day to affirm our commitment to LIFE – to celebrate God’s brilliant design, to proclaim His rightful place as the Giver of life and to honor all human life as sacred. Scripture teaches that our God is in fact the Creator of life, making humans “in His own image” (Genesis 1:26-27). Because we all are His special creation, every person has intrinsic value from conception until natural death!

Below, we have provided some suggestions for how you can be active in affirming, promoting and defending the value of life in the midst of our culture:

- PRAY!
 - ... for the protection of unborn children.
 - ... for those in crisis pregnancy situations as they search for the right thing to do.
 - ... for those suffering from the effects of a past choice (physically, emotionally or spiritually).
 - ... for workers at pregnancy centers actively and compassionately promoting decisions for life.
 - ... (PRAY) for lawmakers and judges – that they would truly carry-out what is right in God’s eyes.
 - ... (PRAY) for repentance – that as a people we would turn back to God and that we each might turn away from any perspective, attitude or action that devalues *any* human life.
- Embrace in your heart and cultivate in your mind a Biblical worldview that recognizes the value of ALL human life and cares about God’s justice/righteousness in any form – it’s about His concern for those who are truly defenseless and mistreated. Allow God’s Word to determine your perspective.
- Learn the truth about the issues, refusing to be deceived by the misleading information that circulates.
- As God provides opportunities, share with others your commitment to life as God’s creation, engaging those with opposing viewpoints with grace and truth.
- Be open to God’s leading regarding foster care or adoption. The presence of those with open, willing and loving arms makes it easier for life to be chosen.
- Find a way to be the hands and feet of Christ, to shine His light in the midst of our world’s darkness and seek what is right in His eyes. Be actively involved in helping to bring about God’s righteousness when it comes to the sanctity of life!

One very local and very practical way we encourage you to get involved in this issue is through the “Pregnancy Care Center.” We are privileged to count them as one of our local ministry partners. There are many different ways you can join them in the ministry work they are doing.

To volunteer, you can visit their website (www.417pcc.org - the site designed more for those wanting to volunteer) or call them directly at 417-877-0800. If God is moving your heart to participate in promoting the value of LIFE, the PCC has a way for you to do just that!

