

The Sanctity of Human Life!”

Genesis 1: 26-28; 2:7-9; 9:5-6

Intro. – Today, across the nation it is known as *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday*. In harmony with this special recognition, I want develop one of the great threats of our day – *the devaluation of human life*

Illus. – whenever you go to get a major home loan, what is usually required? Amongst other matters, one thing you have to have is an appraisal of the property. That means, an qualified appraiser comes, looks over the property thoroughly, i.e. by applying certain standards decides what the house and land is worth. The appraisal determines what? The mortgage or loan value. So, an appraiser is someone who applies certain standards, looks over the house’s condition and decides if its worth the loan. When that same approach is applied to appraise the value of human life, it becomes a clear and present danger.

Hitler wrote in his book *Mein Kempf* “*Those who are physically and mentally unhealthy and unworthy must not perpetuate their suffering in the body of their children...*” By August, 1938, Hitler issued a statement saying children up to age 3 who were mentally slow or deformed must be registered by midwives or physicians. 3 Physicians then decided the life or death of these children without examining them. At over 30 special clinics, selected children were killed by injection and starvation. Later, the age was extended to 17. Eventually, this applied to the elderly and to all mentally handicapped. The plunge down this slippery slope is what later became known as the Holocaust – millions of humans lost their lives in the name of eugenics – or creating the super race. These who lost their lives, when appraised by Hitler’s standard, just weren’t quite high enough in quality.

The standard by which God measures quality of life is different than what we’re hearing then and now. I want to search the Bible and see that human life is not suppose to be appraised at all by human standards. From the very beginning, God has told us enough about human life that we can know its worth is beyond appraisal.

Purpose: to be far more Biblical in our thinking concerning human life issues

I HUMAN LIFE IS DISTINCT

- Certainly this world is full of life. E.g. Inside the mattress of a typical bed estimated there are between 100,000 and 10 mil of these – bed bugs = sleep well tonight.
- then there’s these little plants called Phytoplankton. They have chlorophyll, and affect carbon cycle in oceans. Though microscopic, scientists measure the presence of phytoplankton by satellite. This world is full of life – estimated 5 million species insects on earth, most not discovered or named yet... And here we humans are, just another species in that big mix. Why spotlight human life?

A. In The Image of God

1. Genesis 1:26-27 (read)
2. It’s after everything else had been created that God said, “*Let’s make something different. Let’s make something after our image and likeness.*”
3. Does this mean God has two ears and that when He gets older, hair starts to grow out of them?
4. We make a serious mistake when we try to define God in terms of human image.
 - a. we shadow Him – we’ve been made after a pattern that begins with Him, not other way around
 - b. we’re unlike the rest creation because humans have volition – approach decisions with a realization of right and wrong – it has been written in our hearts (Romans 2:15)
5. God has placed “eternity in the hearts of men,” not animals Ecclesiastes 3:11 “*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...*”
 - a. I know I risk the wrath of animal lovers out here, but it was for the souls of *humans* X died
 - b. Illus. – when animals take precedence over humans (e.g. PETA etc.... dolphin safe tuna etc.) something is seriously wrong – man is distinct because we’re made in God’s image!

B. Exclusive Edition

1. You’ve heard the term *limited* or *exclusive* edition? Exclusive editions are intrinsically worth more. Why? Because not everyone has one
 - Illus. – Preston Tucker car... Gutenberg Bible... if have either of these might want to hang on to these...

2. Notice, when God created the animals and plants, He made a lot of them. The waters *teem* with living creatures. But when makes Adam, there's only one. When He makes Eve, there's only one.
 - a. Air Supply had nothing on Adam – could truly sing, “you're every woman in world to me!”
 - b. it's OK plankton eat phytoplankton. There's a lot of them. It's OK a whale scoops up huge mouthfuls of krill – there's lots of them. But when it comes to mankind, recognize he's a limited edition. Such alone should tell us much concerning the value of human life.

C. God's Breath

1. Picture the scene at creation. God takes dust (1st account of play dough in Bible) – And God forms man out of it. Why, he looks so real! Only, there's something missing.
2. Genesis 2:7 (read) God saved His very breath for man (note: not told did with rest creation...)
3. Human life is distinct. We're not just another species. To even suggest the slaughter of animals for human consumption is the equivalent to Holocaust is missing the mark entirely

We're more important than chickens, pigs, endangered apes owls or shellfish. If we're going to appraise human life on God's standard, must see human life much higher than animal life – Unique, Exclusive

II HUMAN LIFE HAS PURPOSE

- there are certain parts of creation whose only direction seems to eat or be eaten.
- when God set man in the Garden of Eden, it was with a sense of purpose and direction – Genesis 1:28

A. Man Was to Multiply

1. Admittedly not unique to mankind (God told fish do same); yet, interesting how we resist it.
2. We worry about overpopulation (note Japanese swimming pool; yet, cartoon illus. thought). What does God say about it? Never mentions it as an issue. Simply tells man to be *fruitful*.

B. Subdue/Rule the Earth

1. 2:19-20 Adam working at first job – taxonomy (naming animals). God brings them, Adam names
 - a. Usual indicator of who is overseeing whom. Parents name kids, owners name business, author gives title to books and God gave Adam privilege name all the animals.
 - b. Tells us God's direction for man – planned for man to be something more than an animal
2. Second job was gardening (Genesis 2:15) – don't find God giving a specific job to any of the rest of creation. Didn't say to skunks, “Want you to stink things up...” or beavers, “Want you build dams...” Man alone has been given purpose, a job, a directive.
2. As history unfolds, you find the purpose for man is even greater – living for Him knowing He has created us to live with Him forever. Human life has purpose not found any other of creation!

III HUMAN LIFE IS DIVINELY DIRECTED

- Genesis 9:5-6 (read)

A. Conception is Co-Creation With God

1. There are many ways we “play God” in this world. The conception of human life is one of them. We act as though we are in complete charge of that realm. We are not!
 - a. controversy surrounding cloning and genetic manipulation – at some point we're going to have to stop trying to replace God in all of this.
 - b. physical union is human-caused, BUT the resulting human being is always God Who creates.
 - c. when women of Bible enabled to conceive, credit always given to whom? Man, woman...?
2. Moment we begin to treat conception as anything less than creation of human life, we've forgotten that human life is divinely directed, never humanly engineered or destroyed .
3. Make no mistake – abortion is wrong, it's murder... how can you support anyone who fails to take a solid stand on such a fundamental issue?

B. Human Life is Always in God's Hands

1. Is it consistent to be “pro-life” and still be in favor of capital punishment?

2. The reasons we have for protecting innocent, unborn children, failing seniors, and helpless human beings, is the same reasons we have for supporting the death penalty.
 - a. those who take innocent life, God declares will have their life removed
 - b. human life belongs to God alone = created by Him, in His image for Him = life is God's!!!
3. God is first/foremost Creator – He alone has right to declare when life begins and when it ends!

Conclusion: Only hit some high points on such a major matter. Let me now conclude with following summary:

1. If you are a human being – you are valuable always! Let's drop the phrase "quality of life". There's no need to start appraising anyone's life. God has already declared human life more valuable than the rest of creation. God gave His Son for whosoever will accept His gift of grace. That makes you and me invaluable!
2. Co-creation of human life is an awesome privilege – We stain it, misuse it and treat it like it's something we need to avoid. Our country legalizes an industry that seeks to destroy. Sadly, we all have forgotten what an incredible privilege and responsibility to be involved with God in the creating and nurturing of eternal souls. We need to teach and live the fact that this is a sacred trust!
3. Crimes against human life are amongst the worst and deserve physical death – As soon as man is no longer created in the image of God, then we can start eradicating the death penalty. Otherwise, you and I have to keep referring to Genesis 9:5-6 "*Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.*"

How I want everyone here this morning to have a more Biblical approach to human life issues. God wants you to be a voice of wisdom in the middle of conversations in classrooms, locker rooms, hair salons, and the coffee shop. Most importantly, God wants every person here to realize God values you more than any other part of Creation – enough to come in person (Jesus Christ) and provide a means back to Him. Won't you come now and accept His grace on His terms?!