

## A CHOICE EVERYONE CAN LIVE WITH

In the closing days of his leadership of Israel, Moses urges his people to remain faithful to the God Who had brought them out of bondage. Moses' command was a simple one; one that was neither unreasonable nor unattainable (Deut. 30:11-14). He said, (READ Deut. 30:15-20).

This seems like an obvious choice, for who wouldn't choose life over death? Yet we live in a culture where death is glorified as an option to be preferred to life. How has this come to be? It has evolved over a period of time. And I use the word "evolved" deliberately. For as long as God is revered as the Sovereign Creator and Ruler, life is cherished and protected in every circumstance. But when God is removed from the equation of life's origin and sustenance, the sacred nature of life is diminished and eliminated. Since God's authority and sovereignty are inextricably connected to His creative work, to accept the evolutionary theory for the origin and sustenance of the universe is to effectively remove God from the throne to deify mankind.

This explains, at least in part, why today's society has rejected the sanctity of life in favor of a quality of life credo. Life loses its sacred nature when the idea of creation is discarded. Nothing shows the moral bankruptcy of a society more than a disregard for the sanctity of human life. One consequence of the evolution from the sanctity (or sacredness) of human life to the quality of life is to reduce the value of humanity to that of the animal kingdom, which allows society to consider it as humane to give grandma an overdose or a lethal injection as for a veterinarian to put down a sick dog. Dr. Noreen Z. Johnson, M.D. observes that this transition from the *sanctity* of life to the *quality* of life changes the basis upon which the worth of life is determined from spiritual factors to physical factors.

The forces that drive the distinction between the sanctity of life and the quality of life are the gods of politics, economics, and convenience, and not the God of the Bible. Dr. Chuck Baldwin says, "In the name of affluence we are willing to trade our conscience. We not only refuse to protest an industry that makes its living sucking the brains out of little children, we let our stock brokers invest our money in these death-for-profit companies." Chuck Swindoll cites statistics that demonstrate that over half of the abortions in our country are performed because a baby would inconvenience the mother.

A culture of death permeates our society. Under the guise of "choice" millions of unborn babies and thousands of feeble adults are killed every year. Suicide is a choice our young people make with the encouragement of their entertainers. Abortion, euthanasia, physician-assisted and self-inflicted suicide are everyday occurrences. Holland is now dealing with cases of Involuntary Euthanasia where the physicians made those decisions themselves without the consent of the patients or their families. Dr. Noreen Z. Johnson, M.D. warns, "If we as Christians do not actively oppose and change this death ethic which has perverted our land, our society can then justify any atrocity, just as the Nazis did, directed against certain classes of human beings considered disposable." Her warning was warranted, for eugenics has become an accepted philosophy.

Today, respected experts are arguing that it's OK to take the life of an infant even after it's born. In an article entitled "Killing Babies Isn't Always Wrong," philosopher Peter Singer, a professor at Princeton, writes: "Perhaps, like the ancient Greeks, we should have a ceremony a month after birth, at which the infant is admitted to the community. Before that time, infants would not be recognized as having the same right to life as older people." He's not alone. American University philosopher Jeffrey Reiman agrees: "Infants do not possess in their own right a property that makes it wrong to kill them." (BreakPoint with Charles Colson, 9/2/00).

The state of Oregon has passed a Death with Dignity Act.

Pat Buchanan asks a very sobering question: "If there is no God, no life after death, no higher law, and society may permit euthanasia, why can society not decide to make euthanasia mandatory for those who have begun to die? What is to stop the coming generation from kicking aged Baby Boomers and Gen Xers into their graves?"

The choice advocated by secularists results in death. The choice God advocates results in life for all, not only in this life, but through all eternity.

### I. GOD CHOOSES LIFE

God created human life in His image.

On the sixth day of creation, God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Gen 1:26-27 NASU

Human life is valuable and should be preserved and protected.

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed,  
For in the image of God He made man. Gen 9:6 NASU

Human life begins in the womb at conception.

The burden of proof concerning this rests upon those who deny it. Science confirms its truth. The courts corroborate it every time they charge with murder the drunken driver who causes an automobile wreck that results in the death of a fetus.

God, therefore, values the pre-born as subjects of His preservation and protection.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; (NIV)  
God knows each individual before birth and has a plan for his or her life.

David declared that he had been knit together by God in the womb. Psalm 139:13-14

To take innocent human life is to subvert God's plan and to rebel against Him.

## **II. GOD OFFERS LIFE**

The life God offers extends beyond the physical realm, however. It is more than temporal existence on this earth. The life He offers is eternal in a land that is fairer than day.

The reason Jesus came

John 10:10 "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." NASU

The reason Jesus died

The reason Jesus was raised from death

The gospel is the message of life.

## **III. MAN MAY CHOOSE LIFE**

Deut. 30:19

### **Conclusion**

Present the choice with which everyone may live – the choice God provides by His grace. It's the choice by which sinners may live, for it is the way of grace – of forgiveness and redemption. It's the way of truth. The truth that,

- despite the devastating and lasting effects of sin in this life, there is forgiveness with the Lord.
- every individual has worth in His eyes because we are created in His image
- He is willing to adopt into His family all who will accept His Son by faith

Make the choice with which everyone may live.

As with the Israelites, God sets before us today life and death. The choice with which everyone may live is to love the Lord, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands.

Instead of counseling teen girls that abortion is an "easy way out," perhaps a consideration should be given to telling them the truth - not only regarding the devastating and lasting effects of abortion, but also that the world won't end and your parents won't kill you if you choose to have your baby. Perhaps more emphasis can and should be given to adoption, a process that in today's world is fraught with red tape, Big-Brother like intrusion, difficulty and heartbreak. There are loving homes for children whose parents cannot provide them. Most importantly adoptive families can provide the opportunity for many "unwanted" children to live meaningful, productive and joyful lives - a far more compassionate and loving choice than premeditated death. Rather than pouring buckets of derision upon women who have made the deadly mistake of abortion for convenience, is this not only an indictment of society, of our laxity in protecting life, of assuring that women learn the truth? For the feminist lie has been so seductive and effective that so many have had to learn the truth the hard way, such as Norma McCorvey, (formerly Roe) upon whom the Roe v. Wade decision was based.

-- by Elysian Hunter