

The Sanctity of Human Life – Revised 012019

Each year thousands of churches across America set aside a Sunday in January to teach the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic. The Sunday selected usually falls before the anniversary of the infamous Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973.

Sadly, we need to set aside such a day because our nation's law no longer respects the sacredness of human life. Thus, those who fear God are compelled to cry out against the hideous practice of murdering unborn children, the calloused indifference toward the aged, and the selfish idea of ridding society of the so-called physically or mentally undesirable.

In the case of convenience abortion, the blood of over 60 million unborn children now stains the hands of the nation. Abortion is the shedding of innocent blood by the hands of a ruthless, calloused, and ungodly segment of American culture. Tragically many women—often with the encouragement of various family members, so called counselors, and unethical doctors—continue to consent to a murderous procedure that takes the life of the unborn child. In the fear of God, we must faithfully cry out against this national sin!

Beyond the issue of abortion, the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic encompasses several other vital areas related to human life. With that in mind, let's set forth a full definition of the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic.

I believe Focus on the Family's definition of the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic provides excellent guidance as we think our way through this matter. It reads as follows:

“We believe that human life is of inestimable worth and significant in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally handicapped, the unattractive, the physically challenged, and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to the grave.”

This is a far-reaching statement, but why hold such convictions? Just what leads us to the conclusions expressed in this definition?

The deep respect for life expressed in the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic rests upon the reality we are created by God. Since we bear His image as His special creation all human life is sacred. Thus, all human life is worthy of protection and respect from conception to the grave.

Furthermore, since human life is sacred every human being possesses an inherent dignity independent of one’s abilities, physical condition, or social standing. All human life is therefore precious and merits protection. No other reason is necessary to respect and protect human life. Thus, from conception to the grave human life is unique and is to be recognized as a gift from God.

To fully develop our convictions pertaining to the sanctity of human life we must allow the Word of God to speak. To help us explore what the Bible says about life allow me to quote from Coral Ridge Ministries booklet, *“Ten Truths About Abortion.”* It reads:

“The Bible, God’s Word, is not silent on abortion. The Bible teaches us that life is to be treasured, and children—who are “the fruit of the womb” and “a

heritage from the Lord”—are to be cherished as a blessing from God.

Jesus Himself displayed tremendous love for young children and infants during His earthly ministry. “Let the little children come to me,” He commanded His disciples, “and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16 NKJV).

*Luke’s Gospel tells us that people brought their “infants” to Him. The Greek word used by Luke for “infants” is *brephos* (*bre fahs*). When the Gospel of Luke tells of Jesus in the manger, Jesus is called a *brephos*. When Luke describes an unborn baby leaping in the womb, he uses the same word: *brephos*. The Bible makes no distinction between born and unborn. The Greek word *brephos* is used interchangeably to describe them both.*

Scripture leaves no room for doubt about the moral status of the unborn. Pregnant women are said to be “with child.” God does not see the unborn as clumps of tissue without purpose or value. The Scriptures make this abundantly clear! In the Psalms, the Holy Spirit inspired King David to pray:

“O Lord . . . You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them” (Psalm 139:13-16).

The Lord declares to Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Job, the great hero of patient suffering, said, “Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?” (Job 31:15).

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, “Thus says the Lord who made you and formed

you from the womb...” (Isaiah 44:2).

The Bible offers dignity to the unborn, not only in poetic tribute, but through legal protections. When God delivered His law to the people of Israel through the prophet Moses, He specified that unborn children are not of lesser worth. They are to be given the same rights as those who are already born.

(The Bible says): “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life...” (Exodus 21:22-23).

The sixth commandment declares, “You shall not murder,” and the Law of Moses specifies that “if anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death.” By including the murder of an unborn baby in the list of capital crimes (life for life), the Bible is explicitly treating unborn children with the same dignity and value as the most developed of adults.”

Clearly the Word of God teaches life begins at conception and should be protected. Furthermore, as is clearly established, outside the womb no one is permitted to take the life of another.

Considering these Scriptures how serious a matter it is to take the life of the unborn child. To do so is an act of murder. It is the shedding of innocent blood! We all would do well to hear these words found in the Proverbs, *“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:16-17).”*

Conclusion

Thankfully there are millions of Americans engaged in the great struggle to protect life in our nation. Each is a voice for life. The goal is to provide education,

counseling, and guidance to save as many lives as possible until our society once again embraces the Sanctity of Human Life Ethic.

Thankfully the ministry efforts of the pro-life community are saving lives every day through education, helps aimed at assisting women to choose life, and other efforts to protect the aged.

I believe it is important for pastors to encourage the members of their congregations to be a voice for life. I believe we should all be in the fight for life one way or the other. Here are several ways we can do so:

First, we need to teach our children the Word of God diligently. Those who learn to respect the Lord will be a voice for life themselves and will have salt in themselves in adulthood.

Next, we can encourage our local crisis pregnancy centers in practical, tangible ways. Connected to this point, we can encourage anyone we know who is facing a crisis to seek help at these pro-life centers.

Next, we can reach out to someone we know that is carrying a heavy burden related to their decision to end the life of their unborn child. We have the good news of the gospel to share with those who need hope and forgiveness. There is forgiveness and there is healing for all who turn to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And finally, we must fight the battle for law that one day will put an end to the murderous act of abortion. By the grace of God—be a voice for life!

For further reading on this subject consider the following links where you will find several articles dealing with the issue at greater length:

www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/life-issues/dignity-of-humanlife/sanctity-of-human-life

answersingenesis.org/sanctity-of-life/