



**The Value of Human Life**  
January 31, 2016

This message is very humbling...for several reasons.

1. First, it involves Christ's **Lordship**, as every good sermon does. Good preachers are aware of his inability to approach such infallibly.
2. Second, it involves a LARGE area of Kingdom failure. Somehow, we've allowed Satan to deceive so many on something so **basic**.
3. Third, it involves areas of extreme controversy:
  - The issue of the **Value** or the **Sanctity** of Human life is essentially moral and thoroughly biblical.
  - It's a Kingdom issue...a **Worldview** issue.
  - Worldview flows out of who we say God is, what we believe He has done and will do, how we trust Him, and how we process and act upon biblical truth (cf. 2 Tim 3:16; Jam 1:22-27) as opposed to so-called worldly wisdom. (Jam 3:13-18). From *The Playbook*, p196:

The Nehemiah Institute defines five elements of a worldview:  
 View of God:.....Atheism or Theism?  
 View of Man: ..... Evolution or Special Creation?  
 View of Scripture: ..... Insufficient or Sufficient?  
 View of Truth: ..... Relative or Absolute?  
 View of Ethics: .....Cultural or Absolute?

Key worldview areas include:<sup>9</sup>  
 Politics: ..... How we govern  
 Economics: ..... How we prosper  
 Education: ..... What we learn and from whom  
 Religion: ..... What we believe  
 Social Issues: ..... How we relate and view life

So then a Christian must (and this is critical) **go to the Scriptures** to figure out how to think on these issues. There are a few key questions one can ask when trying to lay a foundation for thinking biblically:

1. Who is King? If you can answer this rightly, you are on your way to a biblical worldview!
2. Is there a final judgment, and if so, who is judging? Sometimes, going to the "end" will help you with the beginning and middle!
3. Who created and owns it all?
4. Is there anything in creation Christ shouldn't rule?
5. Who are you trying to please?

**Pastoral Disclaimers**

Before we begin, I want you to know...

1. That if you've ever experienced the pain of abortion, this message is not meant to hurt or harm you, only to exhort and inspire you in your healing, and to help others.

2. That if you've found yourself on the "choice" side of this issue, we are NOT condemning you. Our goal is faithfulness to Scripture, communicated in love. :)
3. That at moments, we may speak plainly. Those plain words are meant to bring biblical clarity, not censure or criticism.
4. The topic is framed as political. Every four years, we see the church divided like never before (over this and a variety of issues). But to me, this message is NOT about politics. This message is about the horror of this:
  - The 1973 **Roe v. Wade** and **Doe v. Bolton** decisions making abortion on demand legal for any reason.
  - Approximately **58 million** pre-born children have died via abortion since 1973. (<http://www.lifenews.com/2015/01/21/57762169-abortion-in-america-since-roe-vs-wade-in-1973/>)
  - Approximately **3,315 babies die via abortion every day** in America. (Guttmacher Institute, 2014)
  - There were **5,407 abortions in South Hampton Roads** in 2014. (VA Dept. of Health)
5. That we all have such a glorious opportunity! This nation, and indeed the world, is so **dark**. There is so much death. We preach LIFE in every way but to our flesh! How greatly this is needed!

### The Mouth of God...

***"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."***

*--Jesus to the devil, Matthew 4:4*

My goal today is for you to see the clear testimony of Scripture concerning the sanctity and value of human life. After you see God's Word, my encouragement to you, as always, is to be good Bereans (Acts 17:11), and examine the Scriptures to see if these things are so. If they are, please believe the Bible and respond to that obedience in **love**.

- *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen 1:26-28)*
- *Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. (Ps 22:9-10)*
- *Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. (Ps 127:3-5)*
- *Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel! (Ps 128:1-6)*
- *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your*

*eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Ps 139:13-16)*

- *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jer 1:5)*
- *You shall not murder. (Ex 20:13)*
- *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work? (Prov 24:10-12)*
- *You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. (Lev 18:21-22)*
- *They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. Thus they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds. (Ps 106:37-39)*
- *Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away. (Matt 19:13-15)*
- *"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. (Matt 18:10)*

### **From the very founding of the Christian church, these truths were evident.**

"Christians must cultivate a culture of life! This has always been the position of the church. Here is a quote from the Didache, a first century document used to teach and catechize the churches:

'This is the second commandment of the teaching. Thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not corrupt boys, thou shalt not commit fornication, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not deal in magic, thou shalt do no sorcery, thou shalt not murder a child by abortion nor kill them when born, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods. (Did 2:1-2)'" —*The Playbook p. 216*

### **Practical Applications**

1. **Pray.** Spend some time in this area praying for:
  - Sexual purity of your children, your church, and your nation, that more babies will be born within biblical marriage.
  - Biblical marriage...that we'd see the wonder in marriage again!
  - Distressed or abortion-minded mothers
  - Absent or ambivalent fathers
  - Success in spiritual warfare...against the principalities of death and murder
  - Loving churches that will not judge, but rather will support and help
2. Share the **Gospel!**
  - I said this recently on Twitter: "Government power is coercive power. It forces men's actions via threat. Kingdom power is transformative. Men obey God from changed hearts."

- When we obey the *Great Commission*, we are not only working to save eternal spirits from damnation; we are also working on the saving of the soul...changed hearts and reformed thinking!
3. **Support** Life-affirming Ministries
    - Consider giving your time, talents, and/or treasures to ministries that value human life and work to save children from death.
    - After much prayer, let us refuse to put God's resources into the demonic.
  4. Do **Titus 2**!
    - *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. (Titus 2:1-8)*
    - We have learned that biblical discipleship isn't a class, but consists of a powerful three-legged stool: "Godly men and women in the church, Godly, manly elders, and biblically-functioning homes." -Voddie Baucham
    - This text (and Titus 1), describes such an environment.
    - If we decide to "do" all three legs of the stool, and this mindset spreads, we attack the devaluing of life at the root through powerful discipleship!
  5. Consider Foster Care, **Adoption**, and Orphan-Care
    - There are few things closer to the heart of God than caring for widows and orphans...
    - *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (Jam 1:27)*
    - *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (Gal 4:4-5)*
    - If you cannot, maybe consider financially helping a family who desires to?

### **Final Thoughts:**

We know this topic is difficult, but I'd like to encourage you to think/pray it through. Think about the implications of the "Imago Dei" of humankind ("Image of God" in Latin)...the fact that He made and designed us to reflect His glory and possess His communicable attributes. Think about the Son's Gospel...His cross and resurrection!

In light of all this, doesn't promoting and defending life make biblical sense? One more quote from *The Playbook*, pp 244-245:

*The killing of innocent life is murder. Exodus 20:13 says, "You shall not murder." Christians with a biblical worldview must see through the cultural obfuscation and verbal sophistry in this area. Clever words and phrases like fetus, tissue mass, and terminating the pregnancy, are for the purpose of dehumanizing the child and making his or her killing seem sophisticated. Always remember, we are talking about human life, made in the image of God.*

Amen.