

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 1/27-28/15
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY 2015



SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 1:26-28 - GENESIS 9:6-7 - EXODUS 20:13 - LUKE 4:18-19 - PSALM 82:3-4

BIG IDEA

Human life is precious because humans are the only thing made in the image and likeness of God—we are the pinnacle of His creation (**Gen 1**). Therefore murder is evil because it is the intentional killing of someone made in the image of God (**Gen 9**). Biblically, scientifically, and rationally, human life beings at conception. Therefore abortion is murder. It is the premeditated and unjust killing of a full member of the human race. What's more, abortion is murdering an innocent baby while they reside in what should be the safest place in the world—their mother's womb. Make no mistake: abortion is not an issue of *woman's choice*, it's an issue of *murder*. So, what should Christians do about this issue? First of all, we need to repent. Repent from our apathy, indifference, or outright promotion of such egregious acts as murdering children. In addition to repentance, we need to follow Jesus in helping the weak and oppressed in any way we can (**Luke 4**). Pray. Serve. Adopt. Educate. Vote, write, call. Proclaim the gospel. These are all ways we can and should be involved to defend the oppressed. Finally, we all need grace. Thankfully Jesus died for sinners, even murderers. On the cross, while He was being murdered by people (*while also taking the wrath of God for sinners!*) the very first words out of Jesus' mouth were, "Father forgive them" (**Luke 23**). Jesus was murdered to forgive sinners, murderers included. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**). Is your faith in Jesus alone for your forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God? Have you repented from your apathy, indifference, and/or promotion of murder?

DISCUSSION

1. Was there anything from the sermon or big idea that ***stood out*** to you, ***challenged*** you, or ***confused*** you?

[[DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]]

Human life is precious because humans are the only thing made in the image and likeness of God—we are the pinnacle of His creation. Therefore murder is evil because it is the intentional killing of someone made in the image of God.

2. The Bible gives us the only concrete reason for human beings having inherent worth—we're created in the image of God. What reasons do people have to believe human life has worth, if they deny the Bible's truth? How does the world's insistence on human beings having worth actually help reveal the Bible's truth and the Law of God is written on their hearts?

Biblically, scientifically, and rationally, human life begins at conception... Make no mistake: abortion is not an issue of woman's choice, it's an issue of murder.

3. Do you remember any of the Biblical reasons we have to believe life begins at conception? What scientific reasons? Rational reasons? What are other distractions to the real issue of abortion (i.e. "woman should have a right to choose what they do with their own body")?

So, what should Christians do about this issue? First of all, we need to repent. Repent from our apathy, indifference, or outright promotion of such egregious acts as murdering children.

4. What has your view of abortion been? How has God been changing your mind and heart as we have taken a serious look at it?

In addition to repentance, we need to follow Jesus in helping the weak and oppressed in any way we can. Pray. Serve. Adopt. Educate. Vote, write, call. Proclaim the gospel. These are all ways we can and should be involved to defend the oppressed.

5. What are you going to do to help the weak and vulnerable, to bring justice to those who are oppressed?

Thankfully Jesus died for sinners, even murderers. On the cross, while He was being murdered by people (*while also taking the wrath of God for sinners!*) the very first words out of Jesus' mouth were, "Father forgive them."

6. Is this (the message of utter *grace!*) what you typically hear when churches and Bible-belters talk about abortion? How is the gospel the strongest power in defending the weak and vulnerable?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **This Sunday**, February 1st, there will be an **Ekklesia Kids meeting** directly following the worship gathering. Anyone who is currently volunteering in Ekklesia Kids or interested in volunteering is requested for this meeting. Pizza will be provided for lunch, as well as childcare.