



**JUSTICE FOR THE LIVING**  
GRACE FOR THE KILLING

# SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

2015

1.25.15

GENESIS 1:26-28

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. WHY IS HUMAN LIFE PRECIOUS?

LIFE IS PRECIOUS BECAUSE MANKIND IS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

**GENESIS 1:26-28** (pg ) 26 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." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 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."

- Human life is precious because we are the only thing in creation made in the image of God!
- **Hear me: Besides the biblical view of humanity**—we're made in the image of God—there is absolutely no ground to stand on for human rights. Why do people have value?
- **Ideas have consequences:** If you reject the truth that all people have intrinsic worth because they're made in the image of God, you can't, with any integrity, argue for human rights, helping the poor, or wanting to stop madmen like Adolf Hitler.
- **C.S. LEWIS:** "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations - these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit immortal horrors or everlasting splendors."
- Human life is precious because God has created us in His image as everlasting beings!

## 2. WHY IS MURDER EVIL?

MURDER IS EVIL BECAUSE IT IS ONE PERSON TAKING THE LIFE OF ANOTHER PERSON, WITHOUT EVEN A HINT OF JUST CAUSE.

### WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT MURDER

- **GENESIS 9:6-7** (pg ) 5 And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. 6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
- **EXODUS 20:13** (pg ) “You shall not murder.”

### WHAT JESUS SAYS ABOUT MURDER

- **MATTHEW 19:18-19** (pg ) 18 And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

### WHAT PAUL SAYS ABOUT MURDER

- **ROMANS 13:9-10** (pg ) 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- Murder is evil because it is in opposition to the very fabric of the created order. It is the antithesis of how God has created us to live. The Law is fulfilled in love.

### WE KNOW MURDER IS EVIL, WE FEEL IT IN OUR GOD-GIVEN CONSCIENCES!

- **ADAM LANZA MURDERED 20 CHILDREN, ALONG WITH 6 ADULTS:**  
In December of 2012, Adam Lanza, dressed in black fatigues and a military vest, a heavily armed man walked into a Connecticut elementary school Friday and opened fire, shattering the quiet of this southern New England town and leaving the nation reeling at the number of young lives lost. Within minutes, 26 people were dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School — 20 of them children.
- **9/11**  
Q. Do you remember the horror on September 11th, 2001?
- **THE HOLOCAUST:**  
Q. What about the Holocaust?
- WE KNOW IT'S EVIL, because murder is the the unauthorized intentional killing of a human being, who has intrinsic worth — they're created in the image of God.

## 3. IS ABORTION MURDER?

BIBLICALLY, SCIENTIFICALLY, & RATIONALLY, YES! BECAUSE THEY'RE HUMAN BEINGS

### BIBLICALLY

1. Only a human being is called a sinner (**Palm 51:5**).
2. Isaiah and Jeremiah were called from their mother's womb (**Isaiah and Jeremiah**).
3. John the Baptizer was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (**Luke 1:15**).
4. God knitted us together in our mother's womb (**Psalm 139:13-14**).
5. The Bible calls them “children” (**Luke 2, Luke 18**).
6. God became a baby in His mother's womb (**Matthew and Luke**).

## SCIENTIFICALLY

- **Robert P. George, Princeton professor, former member of the President's Council on Bioethics,** "Human embryos are not some other type of animal organism like a dog or a cat. Neither are they part of an organism like a heart, a kidney, or a skin cell. Nor again are they a disorganized aggregate, a mere clump of cells awaiting some magical transformation. Rather, a human embryo is a whole living member of the species, *Homo sapiens*, in the early stage of his or her natural development."

## RATIONALLY

- **Say you kill a pregnant woman and are found guilty.** You will be charged with *double homicide* because you killed two PEOPLE (35 states have this law). **\*\*Aaron Ashley, in California\*\***
- **Mary Elizabeth Williams wrote an article on January 23, 2013.**  
***\*She is emphatically pro-choice\** The title of her article is "So What If Abortion Ends Life?"**  
"Yet I know that throughout my own pregnancies, I never wavered for a moment in the belief that I was carrying a human life inside of me. I believe that's what a fetus is: a human life. And that doesn't make me one iota less solidly pro-choice." Let's just start thinking about the crazy that just happened there. She basically said, "I have no doubt that what I am carrying is a human life, and yet I have not wavered one iota, one little mark, away from this belief that it is the woman's right to choose whether or not to terminate the life of this baby."  
"Here's the complicated reality in which we live." Listen to this. "All life is not equal. That's a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about, lest we wind up looking like death-panel-loving, kill-your-grandma-and-your-precious-baby storm troopers. Yet a fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She's the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always."

- **Let's name abortion what it truly is:**

Abortion is the intention killing of a human being that's inside it's mother's womb.

- **Q.** You know that Ancient, Pagan, practice you've heard of and scoffed at, where people would sacrifice their children to appease their gods? **Q. HOW INSANE, RIGHT?!**

- **We do the same thing.** In our day we offer up our children on the alter of a doctors table, sacrificing them to the gods of comfort and irresponsibility!

**Q.** How ticked off were you when **Adam Lanza murdered 20 children and 6 adults?**

**A.** What about every day when you lay your head on the pillow and another **3,000 babies** are murdered?

**Q.** How many people were intentionally murdered in the attacks of **9/11?** **A.** 2,977.

**Q.** How many babies are intentionally murdered every day **inside their mothers' womb**, in America? **A.** **3,000.** **\*\*statistically, 90-105 babies will be murdered while you're listening\*\***

**Q.** How many people were systematically murdered in the **Holocaust?** **A.** **11 million.**

**Q.** How many people babies have been murdered since **Roe v. Wade?** **A.** **Over 56 million.**

- **WE! ARE! INSANE!** How dare we get so upset about these murders while turning a **blind eye** to those murdered by the millions inside what should be the safest place in the entire world—their mothers' womb?

- **Q. Should we not get upset about abortion then, because we've been hypocritical?**  
**A.** **BY NO MEANS!**

- We need to, as we in the south say, **PULL OUR HEADS OUT**, repent of our apathy, passivity, or outright participation, and speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves!

# 4. WHAT SHOULD WE DO AS CHRISTIANS

WE SHOULD SEEK JUSTICE FOR THE OPPRESSED. \*Just like Jesus did and does

## LUKE 4:16-19

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

## PSALM 82:3-4

3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.  
4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

## WHAT SHOULD DO?

1. EARNESTLY **PRAY** TO GOD.
2. GRACIOUSLY **SERVE** THOSE IN TERRIBLE SITUATIONS.
3. SACRIFICALLY **ADOPT** CHILDREN WHO'S MOTHER'S WANT TO ABORT THEM.
4. THOROUGHLY **EDUCATE** YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND OTHERS.
5. WISELY **VOTE, WRITE, AND CALL** YOUR LEGISLATORS.
6. BOLDY **PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL** TO ANYONE AND EVERYONE.

### • JOHN PIPER

“Let's be like Jesus. In every social issue from abortion to alcoholism, from AIDS to unemployment, from hunger to homelessness, let's give the help that we would like to receive if it were us. And at every moment in that love, let us feel an even greater urgency to pray and speak and work to rescue people from everlasting suffering through the gospel of Jesus.”

# 5. WHAT HOPE IS THERE FOR MURDERERS?

THERE'S GRACE FOR MURDERERS, LIKE US ALL. Jesus was murdered for murderers.

LUKE 23:32-34 32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- **Jesus was murdered for murderers**—so that they could be forgiven.
- Jesus knows what it's like to feel the guilt and shame of having aborted or participated in the abortion of a baby—he felt it all on the cross!

-> If you've had an abortion, you're not too bad for Jesus. <-

-> If you hate abortion, you're not too good for Jesus. <-

-> All need his cleansing grace. <-

- Matt Smethurst