



## MARK 12:13-17

# 1. WHY HUMAN BEINGS EXIST

**MARK 12:13-17** 13 And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk (*used for trapping animals*). 14 And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true & do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” 15 But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” 16 And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness & inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar's.” 17 Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.

**Q. Why do they marvel at Him? A.** Because Jesus turns the tables on the Religious leaders yet again.

• Jesus answers their question and at the same time reveals (or reminds) WHY WE EXIST.

• **In v.17, Jesus is saying,** “Give to Caesar the things that bear his image; & give to God the things that bear His.”

**Q. Well, what bears God's image? A.** Not money, or animals, or mountains. *We do*—human beings.

**GEN 1:27** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male & female he created them.

**Q. What does it mean that we are created in the image of God? A.** At least *THREE* things.

## 1. WE EXIST TO SHOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE

• **JOHN PIPER:** “Why do you ever set up an image of anything? To image it! You put up a statue of Stalin, you want people to look at Stalin & think about Stalin. You put up a statue of George Washington to be reminded of the founding fathers. Images are made to image. So if God made us, unlike all the other animals, in his image, whatever it means in detail, this it means clearly: God is the reality & we are the image. Images are created to set forth the reality.”

• **And we see most fully what it looks like to Image God as humans when we look to Jesus**—God Himself who became a human. That's exactly why Jesus calls us to Follow Him; to imitate Him.

## 2. WE EXIST WITH INHERENT VALUE

• **This is why when human beings are treated unjustly,** it sometimes outrages us. Even those who don't hold a Biblical worldview are outraged at injustice and genocide and sex slavery and things like the Holocaust.

**GENESIS 9:5-6** 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.”

## 3. WE EXIST FOR GOD

• **One of the reasons you put your image on something is to show who owns it.** Sort of like we right our name on things when we lend them out; or how Caesars image was on the Denarius. **This is what Jesus is getting at here in Mark 12.** Give to God the things that are God's—*YOU!*

• **You being made FOR God, as His BELONGING,** reveals that the the *JOY* you've sought your whole life, the *REST* you long for, the acceptance you crave, & the *ADVENTURE* you desire is found only in a right relationship with Him.

• **But our sin has destroyed that relationship.** We still bear God's image but we're disfigured with sin.

• **Friends, this is exactly why Jesus came.** He lived, died, and arose as our substitute. When we put our faith in Him and what He's done, His achievements are credited to our account—we're reconciled to God! **Jesus says,** “My life for yours. I'll lay down my rights for your good. I'll pay the price so you can have comfort!”

• **This is why The Holocaust was terrible;** this is why we're outraged at hate crimes & terrorism; and this is why what happened 44 years ago today, is to be mourned, repented of, and changed. *Roe v. Wade.*

## 2. THE HORROR OF ABORTION

“Forty-[four] years ago [today], the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that a woman’s constitutional right to privacy included a right to terminate her pregnancy. After the sweeping decision was handed down, not only were the abortion laws of all 50 states rendered null and void.” - Kevin DeYoung

- **Q. What does this mean, exactly? A.** Since that decision by the Supreme Court (in the U.S. alone) 58 million baby boy and baby girl *IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD* have been *legally* killed inside their mother’s womb.
- **Imagine if we, right now, killed every living human being in** South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oregon, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Iowa, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kansas, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, West Virginia, Nebraska, Idaho, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Montana, Delaware, South Dakota, Alaska, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. **If we killed every living person in these states right now, it would be still short of how many babies we’ve killed Since 73.**
- **On average, a baby is killed every 30 seconds** via abortion procedures in the U.S. **Less than 1%** of abortions performed in America are because of *rape* or *incest*. **Less than 6%** of abortions performed in America are because of *health risks for the mother or child*. **More than 93%** of abortions in America happen because the child is simply unwanted.
- **Q.** How is this happening, **MORALLY?** **A1.** Because many, in their sin, care more about what’s convenient for themselves than what’s good for others. **A2.** Because most who know the truth do nothing about it. **Q.** How is this happening, **LEGALLY?** **A.** Because, according to the Lawmakers, unborn children were said to not be human beings yet. They’re said to be sub-human. (*Same with JEWS, SLAVE TRADE, and NATIVE AMERICANS*).

### 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 & 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 & 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\*\***
- **Let’s name abortion what it is:** Abortion is the murdering of an image bearer of God inside their mother’s womb.

## 3. WHAT CAN WE DO?

**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.

1. Earnestly **PRAY** to God. **2.** Graciously **SERVE** those in terrible situations. **3.** Sacrificially **ADOPT** children who’s mothers want to abort them. **4.** Thoroughly **EDUCATE** yourself, your family, and others. **5.** Wisely **VOTE, WRITE, AND CALL** your legislators. **6.** Boldly **PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL** to anyone and everyone.
- **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. We all need the cleansing & forgiveness only He can give through His work in our place.
  - **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.”