

# The Battle for Truth?

## Part 7 – Sanctity of Life

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### INTRODUCTION

The **Sanctity of Life** is a belief that human life has an inherently sacred attribute that should be protected and respected at all times.

One's belief regarding the sanctity of life become the foundation of all the ethical debates on embryo experiments, abortion, euthanasia, and how we treat each other.

People need to ask: "When does life begin?" and "Why is life sacred?"

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## Abortion

One of the most controversial subjects in our country is abortion. It is amazing to me that so many want to fight to protect animals yet justify the death of unborn children.

The Congressional Record (Feb 3, 2021) states that there have been 62 million abortions in America since 1973. That is equivalent to the entire population of California and Florida.

Currently 1.2 million children are aborted a year in America.

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## Abortion

Roughly 2 out of 10 pregnancies end in abortion. The good news is this is down from 1 out of 4 a few years ago.

In many third world countries abortions can be as high as 7 out of 10.

**It has been said that the most dangerous place in the world is not Chicago, but the mother's womb.**

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## Abortion

Historically, a woman who was pregnant was considered “with child”. Pregnancy was celebrated, and children were considered a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

Now children are seen as inconveniences and as problems.

**A society that is capable of killing their own young are capable of doing anything!**

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## Infanticide

Infanticide is the killing of a child that was born alive. Though this is not legal in the U.S. strictly speaking, many states do practice partial birth abortions.

Arguments are being made that children with birth defects should be killed. This is disguised as saving the parents from the difficulty of dealing with a handicapped child (Selfishness). This is also fueled by government healthcare which does not want to be burdened with the cost of taking care of these children.

Some proponents have said that the right to terminate a child should be extended to 1 year of age as some “defects” are not visible at birth.

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## Euthanasia

Euthanasia is defined as the painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma. Euthanasia is legal in 9 states and Washington DC.

Euthanasia is legal in most countries in Europe. In several countries it is an excepted practice for terminally ill children under 12. Several countries have expanded this for children over 12. A growing number of countries allow for euthanasia in cases involving mental illness including depression.

Mentally ill patients are often cognitively impaired and are protected from entering into legal agreements, but are now being assisted to commit suicide???. Its coming to America.

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## Euthanasia

Euthanasia fails to see the big picture. If a person dies without Christ, they are headed for a future that is greater than any pain they are facing in this one.

For the believer, it fails to see what God is doing. How a person faces pain and death provides the opportunity for their faith to be evidenced. This can be a powerful witness!

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## Murder & Violence

Twenty to thirty people are being murdered each weekend in Chicago. In some cities, people are blindsiding people hitting them in the head knocking them out. It is not robbery; it is a twisted game which leaves people with concussions, and some have died.

Like all sin, the focus in on oneself.

**People steal, murder and do violence failing to see the worth and personhood of others.**

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## Poverty

I think one of the most impactful outcomes of our mission program at ACS is to see true poverty in the world. When you see people living in houses built out of cardboard and scrap pieces of tin, it changes you.

When we see starving children due to poverty or by the effects of war, it should bother us.

Do these lives matter?

James 4:17 - Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

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## Reality Check

Why are the things that we talked about wrong?

In researching the internet, I was surprised by the number of sites that struggle with the logic of calling murder (in any form) morally wrong.

The modern world has rejected God and has set themselves up as the moral compass to determine right and wrong. Morality is no longer based in the 10 commandments, but what is best for society, or for the individual. What about the victim or those who cannot protect themselves? Has the world forgotten Nazi Germany?

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## Sanctity of Life

Human beings were created by God in His image. Therefore, every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth—including preborn children, elderly individuals, those with special needs and others marginalized by society. Christians are called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

In short, human life is sacred and respect for human life should be at the center of all we do. In order to put the “life ethic” into words and practice, it helps to consider where it comes from.

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## Sanctity of Life

God established that Human life is sacred.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

To be created in the likeness of God means that each human bears His image and with it, a value beyond our unique characteristics or individual attributes. Nothing else in God's created order has the distinction of reflecting His image; it's a privileged status reserved only for humankind.

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## Sanctity of Life

God told Noah why murder was wrong and needs to be punished.

Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

Jesus, breathed His life into Adam so that he became a living soul. Our life force, was placed in us by God (Jesus) and ultimately belongs to Him.

**God is the giver of life, and we are each accountable to how we use it.**

**Only God has the right to determine the end of life.**

He has given society the right to remove harmful elements from society, but this is to be a community decision, not individual.

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## When Does Life Begin?

**The Bible clearly states that life begins at conception.**

God knows an individual from conception.

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;  
Before you were born I sanctified you;  
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Psalm 139 speaks of God forming us and knowing all our days  
when we were still in the womb.

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## When Does Life Begin?

Samson’s mother pleaded with God for a child. God answered her prayer and stated that the child (Samson) would be a Nazarite from birth. Mom was then placed under the Nazarite restrictions so that Samson would be under the vow from conception (Judges 13).

John the Baptist exercised his spiritual gift as a prophet (recognizing Messiah) and expressed joy (emotions) while still in the womb when Mary came to stay with Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45).

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## When Does Life Begin?

Scientifically, the life that a woman carries in her womb is a unique person. About half of the time, it is a different sex. The unborn child has their own fingerprints (10 weeks), the heart pumps their own blood (week 7), the brain begins to develop by week 3.

The unborn child is also learning. They are acquiring tastes for the foods they will eat via mom's blood. They are also listening and can recognize mom's voice at birth as well as the sounds of their regional language.

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## Bad Choices

Today there is a cry that a woman have the right to do what they want with their own bodies. But what about the body that they carry in theirs?

We should also ask "what is society demanding the choice to do what? – commit child sacrifice?"

Our nation has been indoctrinated to believe a lie. God's people need to take a stand, in love, for truth!

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## Bad Choices

Any pregnancy carries a certain amount of risk and having a child certainly interrupts one's plans. Groups like Planned Parenthood tap into this fear and have created a multimillion-dollar business.

The nation and the church have lost sight that children are a "gift from God". Yes, they interrupt life, and raising children is not easy, but they also bring great joy.

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## Spiritual War

As believers, we recognize that there is a "spiritual war" going on around us. We see it is society, government, and in our own hearts.

Satan hates humans because he sees God's image in us. He does not seek mankind's best, only his own.

In the Old Testament, he sought to kill the firstborn. He knew Messiah was to be the firstborn. Stop the cradle and you stop the cross!

**Child sacrifice was one of the primary reasons God judges the nations. How does He view America?**

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## Sanctity of Life

The Sanctity of Life must be the foundation of how we see others. Everyone we meet, born or unborn are made in the image of God for a plan and purpose.

We talk about abortion, but it also states that murder is wrong. It even impacts how we view and treat others. Jesus stated that how we treat the least of the brethren is how we have treated Him. It is what make "hate" and "racism" so wrong.

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## Sanctity of Life

The Sanctity of Life means that we must see life as valuable and precious. The birth of a newborn child is cause for celebration and rejoicing.

We live in a fallen world and people have made horrible decisions. It is easy to write people off. The homeless person, drug addict, prostitute, and criminal are broken. Lost and cut off from their Creator, but still bearing the image of God. Their lives are also sacred and it is the calling of the church to reach out to those rejected by the world. Their lives should matter also.

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## So What ...

We need to see others (born or unborn) through God's eyes!

Does your gaze stop at the physical appearance, race, or ability, or do you look deeper to try to see the image of God in each life?

Hidden heart attitudes, values, pride, superiority and contempt prevent us from seeing others with the respect and significance they deserve.

The church needs to remind others of the value of all human life by speaking out for those who cannot speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8). Look for opportunities to talk about and act upon your pro-life views. Teach your children and grandchildren to respect all human life and demonstrate that respect in your own words and actions.

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## Resource

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/pro-life/expressing-pro-life-in-winsome-ways-video-series/>

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