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“The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life” (Job 33:4).

Value of Life

Central Truth: Human life is a sacred extension of divine life.

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What is the value of human life? It is much more than is evident in modern society. A man committed murder and was given a suspended sentence. Another robbed a grocery store and was sentenced to fifteen years in prison. What is more important, human life taken in murder or the money taken in robbery?

We are living in a time when human life is considered less and less sacred. That is why abortion is so prevalent (1,400,000 unborn babies killed in their mothers' wombs each year). That is why assisted suicide is being accepted by more and more people. That is why euthanasia (causing the death of a person in order to relieve suffering) is discussed as a way to deal with victims of incurable diseases or permanent bodily injury.

God values human life! His estimate of its value does not change because human opinion changes. We must hold God's view.

God Is the Source of Human life

All life is from Him who is life. Read Genesis 1 and 2. The life of fish and fowl came from God. The life of land animals came from God. And then, *“the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Genesis 2:7). All life has developed from Him.

We may speak of “new life” beginning at conception or at the birth of an infant. Not so. There was life in the egg and sperm which united in conception. The “new” baby is only the continuation of the original life

which God shared when He breathed the breath of life into the nostrils of Adam. All life is from God. He only is its source and its goal.

When the baby is developing in his mother's womb, God is involved as He weaves and knits the little one (Psalm 139:13). God sees the developing fetus as it is and as it shall be after birth. God makes that baby after His own image and likeness, just as He made the first man and woman to be like Him (Genesis 1:26, 27).

Before birth, the baby is the creation of God. Each baby is as certainly God's handiwork as were Adam and Eve. At birth, the baby is the gift of God to the parents. The baby comes with the commission, "Take this child and rear it for Me."

The life of every little child is very important to Jesus. He said the one who receives a little child in His name receives the child, the Lord Jesus, and the Father who sent Jesus (Mark 9:37). Think about that!

God so values the life of the unborn child that He set the death penalty on one who causes his death. Read Exodus 21:22-25. What does that say to you about the practice of abortion so common today?

It is permissible to kill an animal because it does not bear the image of God. But to kill a human, whether infant or adult, is to incur God's sentence of death (Genesis 9:6). That indicates the value that God puts on human life.

He not only gives life, but He also governs all things that He has created. He is so far above His creation that He needs nothing from it to sustain Himself or to make Him more complete (Acts 17:24, 25). He gives rather than receives, so that His creation may be complete.

In humility let each of us say, "*The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life*" (Job 33:4). What a dignity that gives to our lives!

God Is the Protector of Life

God sets the duration of life. Our days and the type of person we would be were written in His book before we had lived a single day (Psalm 139:16). God has "*determined the times before appointed*" for every person in every nation "*and the bounds of their habitation*" (Acts 17:26). He who numbers the hairs of our head must surely count the days of our lives. It is wise for us to number our own days and live wisely through them (Psalm 90:12).

God heals and extends life. He promises to keep life-threatening diseases from those who listen to His voice and obey His commands (Exodus 15:26). The ancient psalmist listed healing of our diseases as one of

the major blessings of God (Psalm 103:3). It is appropriate for us to seek medical help in our sickness (for God has given wisdom as people have sought help in healing), but we must remember that it is God only who can give or extend life.

God enriches and fulfills life. How beautiful are the words of the psalmist as he praises God, *“Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s”* (Psalm 130:4, 5). Many Christians can testify that life wasn't worth the living until the Savior came their way.

God punishes those who destroy life. Is it right to execute a person guilty of willful murder? It is not only permissible, it is commanded in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is very plain in the statement, *“Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man”* (Genesis 9:6). And Exodus 21:22-25 extends that capital punishment to those who are responsible for aborting an unborn baby.

God defends innocent life. One of the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord is *“hands that shed innocent blood”* (Proverbs 6:17). (Read verses 16-19 also.) Beware how you treat infants and elderly people. God has extended His special care toward them.

God Is Life

He is *“the living God”* (Psalms 42:2; 84:2). Our life is but an extension of His life (Genesis 2:7). It is His spirit in us that gives us life and understanding (Job 32:8).

The Bible speaks of life in three dimensions. The first is physical life. God fashioned a form of the dust, breathed into its nostrils His own *“breath of life,”* and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Physical life is the breath of God. That is why abortion is wrong, euthanasia is wrong, and murder is wrong. That is why Christians must take a firm vocal and public stand for the sanctify of human life.

Beyond physical life, there is eternal life. To have eternal life is to know God in Jesus Christ (John 17:3). That is the knowledge of God by a spiritual relationship with Him. And the third dimension of life is the abundance of eternal life which Jesus announced (John 10:10). It comes in being filled with the fullness of God. But it all starts with physical life.

Do what you can to extend and improve the quality of human life about you. Is it appropriate for Christians to have a “living will”? Yes. Is it permissible for a Christian to donate his organs (heart, eyes, liver, etc.) to be

transplanted in another person who is critically ill? Yes. That is a way to show the great value of human life.

To hold life in highest esteem is to show reverence for God. All human life is sacred before God. To reject the value of human life is to dishonor God and to border on the sin of blasphemy. Take a stand for the sanctity of human life.

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is life of so little value to many today?
2. Why does the Christian hold life of such high value?
3. How did human life begin?
4. How is your life an extension of the life of God?
5. Why are abortion and euthanasia wrong?
6. Why is assisted suicide wrong?
7. In what way is all life subject to the will of God?
8. What does it mean to say that God is the living God?
9. How can you help promote the sanctity of human life?