

Key Scripture Passages Relating to the Sanctity of Human Life

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- I. Creation: The Sanctity of Human Life Is Established
 - A. God created human life in His image
Gen. 1:1, 26-28; 2:7; 5:1-3; 25:21;33:5; Job 10:8-12; 33:4; Ps. 127:3
 - B. His people are sustained by His life
Josh. 3:10; I Sam. 17:26, 36; 11 Kings 19:4,16.

- II. The Fall: The Sanctity of Human Life Denied
 - A. Even before the giving of the Law, murder was considered the most heinous of crimes
Gen. 4:8-16; 9:4-6
Violence and evil provoke God's judgment as seen in the Flood
Gen. 6:11
 - B. God is the protector of life. The Law imposed a positive obligation on people to respect human life.
 - 1. Old Testament (Ex. 20:13). The Sixth Commandment ("Thou shalt not murder") is not merely a prohibition of murder, but is also a positive injunction to respect all of human life.
 - 2. New Testament (Matt. 5:21 -26). This passage reveals that not only should we do no physical harm to our neighbors, but even violent thoughts and emotions are prohibited.
The prohibition of murder is repeated and intensified in the New Testament
Matt. 15:19; 19:17-18; Rom. 1:29; Rev. 22:15.
The NT conjoins the injunction to love our neighbor with the concept of life, so that love is the law of life, hatred the law of death (I John 3:14-15).

- III. Redemption: The Sanctity of Human Life Restored
 - A. Jesus Christ is our Life
John 1:4; 5:26; 14:6; Acts 17:25
 - B. Jesus Christ reinstalls us as His children. The language of adoption is used. Thus, God's original purpose in creating us is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
John 1:12 -13; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 4:4-7
 - C. Jesus Christ recreates us in His image and we come to resemble God as our Father
Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
 - D. The continued sanctity of human life is due to the grace of God. Human nature, though fallen, is sacred because it continues in God's image.
 - 1. That there is no direct prohibition of abortion in the Old Testament indicates that it was foreign to the Jewish mind.
 - 2. Fertility was regarded as the most wonderful of blessings and barrenness as a most dreadful curse, because it was the means whereby God gathered His people
Gen. 21:1 f.; I Sam.1:1 -20; Ps. 127:3-5
 - 3. The death of an unborn child is explicitly identified as a curse (Hos.9: 14), and live birth as a blessing (Ex. 23:26)

- 4. Accidental abortion was punishable under Mosaic Law
Ex. 21 :22f

IV. The Sanctity of Unborn Human Life.

- A. God creates and fashions life in the womb
Gen. 29:31; Job 31:15; Is. 44:2,24;49:1,5; Jer. 1:5
- B. Conception marks the beginning of an individual's life
I Sam. 11:5; I Chron. 7:23; Luke 1:36
- C. The unborn are treated as persons in the womb
Ps. 51:5; 58:3; Luke 1:41-44; Ps. 139:13-16
- D. God's purpose for each is operative before birth
Is. 49: 1, Jer. 1:5 - set apart for service
Lk. 1:15 - filled with the Holy Spirit
Gal. 1:15 - consecrated.
- E. Jesus was a person in the womb
John 1:1,14; Lk. 41-44; 2:21
The entity in the womb is considered a baby
Luke 1:41-44; 2:5 - Pregnant woman are "with child".
- F. The Greek for babe is brephos and is used interchangeably in the New Testament for a baby in Lk. 2:12,16; an infant in Luke 18:15; and a child in II Tim. 3:15. In these passages there is no distinction made between born and unborn children.
- G. It is unnatural not to love the life in one's womb
Is. 49:15.

V. God's Truth Is the Way of Life.

- A. Obedience to God brings life
Ps. 36:9; Prov. 3:1,2; 4:22-23; 6:23;12:28; 13:14; Ezek. 33: 14- 15.
- B. Disobedience to God brings death
Deut. 30:19-20; Rom 8:5,7;Eph.4:18.
- C. God judges those who shed innocent blood and is not complacent towards violence
Gen. 9:6; Ex. 20:13; Num. 35:33; Prov. 24:10,12.

VI. The Sanctity of Human Life and Related Issues.

- A. The abuse of children is an abomination to God
II Kings 17:16-20; Lev. 20:1 -5; Jer. 32:35; Amos 1:13; Jer. 7:6; 22:3,17; Ex. 23:7;
Prov. 6:16-17; Gen. 9:6; Ex.20: 13; Matt. 5:19,21; 18:10; 19:18; Rom. 1 :29; Rev. 21 :8;22:15
- B. Since only God can destroy the soul, the presence or absence of a soul has no bearing on His commandment, "Thou shall not kill"
Matt. 10:28-31.
- C. We do not have an unqualified "right" to our own bodies
1 Cor. 6:19-20.
- D. God has a special concern for the unfortunate, the infirm, and the deformed
Is. 45:9,10; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; Eph. 2:10; 5:20
- E. As in all sin, God forgives those who have been involved in an abortion
1 John 1:9; Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 6:1.