

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

(Gen. 2:7)

Introduction:

1. Oh, the precious gift of life our God has given to us, His children. But oh, the horrors of man with regards to this precious gift.
2. Our country is in a moral downward spiral and much of it is rooted in the devaluation of human life. We hear about the horrors of the deceitfully named Planned Parenthood, we hear people advocating for assisted suicide, and murder is becoming more prevalent day by day.
3. These things ought not be. Life is precious in the sight of God and should be in the eyes of His people as well. Let us consider the sanctity of life: the big picture, the prohibitions, the exceptions, and the issues of today.

Discussion:

I. The Big Picture.

- A. Life is a gift from God (Jas. 1:17; Gen. 1:26-27). As it is from God it is not our own to do with as we please. As it is a gift from God it is not something we can lightly take from others.
- B. The purpose behind our physical life highlights its importance to God.
 1. We are spiritual beings placed within a physical body in a physical universe for a specific purpose (2 Cor. 5:1-10; 2 Pet. 1:14).
 2. God, out of His love, has given us the right to decide where we will spend our spiritual eternity (Gen. 2:15-17; 4:7; Deut. 30:11-20; Josh 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Amos 5:4; Matt. 11:28-30; 2 Thess. 1:8).
 3. The physical reality is the “space” God has given us in order to choose (Ex. 33:18-23).
 4. Thus the high regard God has for our physical lives; they are tied to our choice/eternity.

II. The Prohibitions.

- A. Although the first time we see the prohibition against murder is in the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:13) it is plain that it was communicated to those before the law of Moses as well (Gen. 4:10, 11). Remember Romans 5:13 and what it teaches us (cp. Heb. 11:4; Rom., 10:17).
- B. Murder has been spoken against in every dispensation or system (Rom. 13:9; Rev. 21:8; 22:14, 15).

III. The Exceptions.

- A. God’s justice (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:21; Lev. 24:21).
- B. God-given authority (Rom. 13:4; 1 Pet. 2:14; Acts 25:11) with the caveat of Acts 5:29.
- C. Accidental killing (Deut. 19:4, 5).
- D. This all proves the point that murder, and not killing is what is strictly forbidden. Murder would be killing that is not “sanctioned” or “authorized” by God.

IV. The Issues of Today.

- A. What about abortion? It is murder of the innocent (Ex. 21:22, 23; Prov. 6:16; Jer. 1:15; Gal. 1:15; Luke 1:41-44).
- B. What about suicide? It is murder of self (Ps. 100:3; Ezek. 18:4) and not condoned (Judas).
- C. What about soldiering/policing/mountain climbing, etc.? Intent matters. It is not the soldiers intent to die, but to serve the God-given authority (Luke 3:14).
- D. What about euthanasia? We must understand that there are two types: active and passive. Active euthanasia would always be the unauthorized killing of a person (2 Sam. 1:1-16). Passive euthanasia must be prayerfully considered on a case by case basis.

Conclusion:

1. Life is a precious gift from God to man and as such is always to be considered His (except by those in rebellion- Matt. 22:21).
2. Since our physical life has been given to us that we might choose where we will spend our eternity, the taking away of someone’s choice is a most heinous crime.
3. In the words of Moses: choose life (Deut. 30:19)! Invitation.