

Sanctity of Life Sunday Pastor's Resource

Sanctity is defined as the condition of being considered sacred or holy, and therefore entitled to respect and reverence. God is the creator of all things. This includes mankind. We are uniquely created in God's own image. We have been set apart for His glory. Human life is sacred.

How Does MBCH Support the Sanctity of Life?

- Provision of In-Home Pregnancy Services
 - Confidential services given to mothers-to-be in the privacy of their home
 - Establishment of a support network within the community
 - Assistance before and after delivery of your baby
- On-Campus Group Living
 - Safe residential environment to maintain a healthy pregnancy
 - Parenting skill training
 - Post-delivery residential support available for mother and child
- We Offer Parenting Skills and Education
 - Education Assistance
 - Case Management
 - Adoption Services
 - Job Training
 - Resources and Community Support
 - Mental Health Referrals
 - Independent Living Skills
 - Spiritual Support
 - Breastfeeding
 - Co-parenting
 - Safe sleep
 - Prevention of shaken baby syndrome
 - Child abuse and neglect prevention

From Article 15 of the Baptist Faith and Message: "All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society... In the spirit of Christ, Christians should... work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death..."

Scriptural Support (HCSB)

Genesis 1:27 *"So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female."*

Exodus 20:13 *"Do not murder."*

Psalm 139:13-16 "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. ¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began."

Isaiah 44:2, 24 "This is the word of the Lord your Maker who formed you from the womb; He will help you: Do not fear; Jacob is My servant; I have chosen Jeshurun... This is what the Lord, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: I am Yahweh, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by Myself; who alone spread out the earth."

Jeremiah 1:5 "I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Luke 12:6-7 "Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. ⁷ Indeed, the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows!"

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them."

James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

Sample Sermon Outline

A Sacred Defense

Introduction

Pastor Aaron Burgess of Echo Church shares this drastic change of thinking about the sacred nature of life:

"Dr. Bernard Nathanson was the leading abortion doctor in the United States in the 1970's. He had campaigned vigorously for the legalization of abortion and he himself had performed 60,000 abortions. He even believed his intentions were good and that he was doing a righteous thing by providing a service that guaranteed a woman's right to control her body.

But something changed Dr. Nathanson's point view. It was a medical breakthrough called the ultrasound, introduced in 1976. This device literally opened a window on fetal development. The first time Nathanson saw an ultrasound in action, he was with a group of residents gathered around a pregnant patient in a darkened examining room watching a demonstration by a technician. The technician applied a conductive gel to the woman's abdomen and then began working a handheld sensor over her stomach. As the screen clarified, Nathanson was

amazed. He could see a throbbing heart. When the technician focused closely on the image, Nathanson could see all four chambers of the heart pumping blood. And during the scan Nathanson became convicted. He said that his mind had dropped the word fetus in favor of the word baby. Suddenly, everything he had been learning about the child in the womb since his entry into the medicine snapped into focus. He had known what took place in the womb but somehow seeing it for the first time changed everything.

Bernard Nathanson, the leading abortion doctor in America, became convinced that human life existed with in the womb from the onset of pregnancy. In an article he wrote for the New England Journal of Medicine he wrote, in abortion “we are taking life.” That fetus is not mere tissue it is human life. amazed. He could see a throbbing heart. When the technician focused closely on the image, Nathanson could see all four chambers of the heart pumping blood.”

Physical science provided a window into the handiwork of our Creator. What God makes is sacred and should be preserved.

Text: Isaiah 44:2, 24 *“This is the word of the Lord your Maker who formed you from the womb; He will help you: Do not fear; Jacob is My servant; I have chosen Jeshurun... This is what the Lord, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: I am Yahweh, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by Myself; who alone spread out the earth.”*

- 1. God’s Sacred Creation**
- 2. God’s Sacred Help**
- 3. God’s Sacred Service**

1. God’s Sacred Creation

- a. Our Maker is Holy therefore mankind is holy/sacred (Isa 44:2)
- b. His creation begins in the womb, hidden from human eyes (Isa 44:2, Jer 1:5, Ps 139:13-16)
- c. God maintains His seen creation; the heavens and the earth for His glory and will do the same for mankind who is made in His image (Isa 44:24)
- d. We are chosen for specific good works before we are born (Gen 1:27, Eph 2:10)
- e. To destroy God’s creation is a sin. It is murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- f. Therefore we must defend the defenseless. In this case the unborn (Jas 1:27)

Statistics from Operation Rescue.org:

A total of 730,322 abortions were reported to Centers for Disease Control for 2011, the most recent year numbers are available. (Reporting is voluntary and not 100%.)

- In 2011, the total number of abortions decreased by 5% over 2010 numbers.
- The Associated Press reported in June, 2015, that nationwide the number of abortions decreased by an average 12% since 2010.

- CDC showed that 3,932,181 babies were born in the U.S. in 2013.
- In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended.
- Of all unintended pregnancies, 4 in 10 are aborted.
- Twenty-one percent of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion (not including natural miscarriages).

2. God's Sacred Help

- a. God helps whom He creates (Isa 44:2b)
- b. God prepares people and situations to help us (Eph 2:10)
- c. God has chosen His people to help the defenseless (Jas 1:27)
- d. Fear drives people to make tragic choices. We must share the love and hope of our Redeemer to help those who feel overwhelmed. (Isa 44:2)

Note that Mary was a teenager that was pregnant before she was married. When asked, she could only tell her family the truth: "It is God's will." She married her fiancée, Joseph, who was a poor carpenter. They had to flee the wrath of Herod, and relocate all the way to Egypt. Yet, the Lord, who knew all of the things that they would face, sent wise men with gifts to finance the yet unknown move. When God creates life, He will make provision to sustain it.

3. God's Sacred Service

- a. We praise God for His remarkable, wonderful creation. It begins with this attitude! (Ps 139:14)
- b. We must come to the defense of those God has sent to glorify Himself and to help all of mankind. We are preventing the destruction of future pastors, missionaries, Christian workers, doctors, scientists, etc. (Jer 1:5)
- c. We must come alongside of God who keeps a watchful eye on all of His creation. (Luke 12:6-7)

Martin Luther asks and answers the question, "What is it to serve God and to do His will? Nothing else than to show mercy to our neighbor. For it is our neighbor who needs our service; God in heaven needs it not.