

What Does It Mean to Be Pro-Life? (Sermon)

This sermon is based on Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16; Psalm 51:5; 1 Samuel 2:6; Deuteronomy 32:39; and Psalm 31:14-15.

Dear Blessed of God:

The other day I received a phone call from a right-to-life organization. The first thing they asked me is if I was pro-life, pro-choice, or something else. It's not that the question shouldn't be asked, but I was a little confused with the "something else." In the scheme of things I realize they were asking for my political point of view. Today's question should not be looked at merely in a political way. We must look at it in the Biblical sense and with God's will and purpose in mind.

When we dig into God's word we quickly learn several things: God is the creator of life; conception is a gift of God; the incarnation of Jesus begins with conception; God creates and fashions life within the womb; the unborn are treated as persons in the Bible; we are conceived and born in sin and are therefore under the wrath of God; children are a gift from the Lord; our life is our time of grace; God forbids the taking of human life; we are to defend and protect life; rape, incest, and birth defects do not justify taking the life of the child; being in pain, or if our "quality of life" is lessened, or if we feel our life has no meaning does not justify the taking of our life or anyone else's; every human life has meaning and purpose. Fellow believers, we don't have the right to take life by abortion, suicide, euthanasia, or murder.

So, **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRO-LIFE?** It starts with being a believer in the true God. Only Christians know that God brought life into this world. He, being eternal, knew everything about His creation before He created it. God invented life -- it was His idea -- and He still gives life today. When He created the earth and all that is in it, it was perfect and holy and without sin. Even God's highest creation -- human beings -- was perfect and sinless. It wasn't until after Adam and Eve sinned against God that life and death issues became a factor. Before sin came into the world there was only life. After sin came into the world there was death too, since death is a punishment for sin -- not just physical, but also spiritual death. It was never God's intention that human beings would die. Yet, sin separates us from our God; it destroys our relationship with Him; it will make our life miserable here on earth and eternally miserable after our life on earth is ended.

God is **PRO-LIFE**. He proved it with His creation. Even more, He proved it with His promise to our first parents, Adam and Eve. He promised to send a Savior who would destroy sin and death so human beings could have eternal life with Him in heaven. Jesus, His only Son, became our substitute and the promised sacrifice so we would have forgiveness for all our sins and eternal life in heaven with our loving God. Jesus fulfilled His Father's will. Jesus conquered sin, death and the devil. Jesus has brought life and immortality to all who believe in Him. Yes, God would have all men to be saved and to have eternal life.

Only God's Word reveals to us how loving and gracious God is in spite of the way human beings treat Him and His creation of life. Isn't it sad that because of the way sin clouds the hearts and minds of the human race, we even have to discuss things like abortion or partial-birth abortion, euthanasia, "quality of life," assisted suicide and legalized suicide, human cloning and so on. If we consider all these issues, we also have to consider the selfishness of the human race. Plus, only God's Word can provide the answers we need.

However, it does begin and end with one important issue: either we believe in the God of the Bible, or we don't. From this everything else springs. Either we believe what God says or we don't. Either we believe in the One who gave us life and will bring us to eternal life, or we believe in someone or something else.

I'm going to look at the passages we have before us today simply in the Biblical order of arrangement:

Deuteronomy 32:39 teaches us that there is only one God, not many gods. Which means there is only one way to eternal life in heaven, not many ways to heaven. It teaches that the true God controls life and death. All things are in His hands.

1 Samuel 2:6 teaches us that the Creator of life has the power over life and death. He demonstrated that when He raised Jesus from the grave in victory over sin, death and the devil, and assures us that we too will rise from the grave victorious because we believe in Jesus. It also means that no one, save the government, has the right to deliberately end a life that God has given.

Psalms 31:14,15 teaches us that faith in the God of free and faithful grace is imperative. And, we recognize, by faith, that every moment of our life -- from start to finish -- is in the hands of our loving and gracious God. This means we can trust God for all things.

Psalms 51:5 teaches us that humans are conceived and born in sin. This means there is a spiritual dimension to our existence.

Psalms 139:13-16 teaches us that our all-knowing God designed every facet of our bodies; nothing in all creation is like the human body, and no other creation of God has a soul. God knew what we would be like, what we would do, and so on, even before we were conceived and formed in the womb of our mother. He knew what eye and hair color we would have, whether we would have some kind of handicap or deformity, whether we would be male or female, whether we would be in business, medicine, trucking, finances, and the like. Most of all, our Lord's hope for our eternal future existed long before we existed (cf. The promise made to Adam and Eve -- Genesis 3:15).

These sections of Scripture, along with all the others that speak to life-issues, teach us these truths:

1. Only the Christian can make God-pleasing decisions or do the correct thing because it springs from a heart of faith, regardless of its perceived outcome. Therefore, apart from faith, there can be no God-pleasing deeds and decisions.
2. God is the author of life and death. Human life is present at conception. God alone has the right to initiate and terminate life. Without God's permission, mankind cannot take life.
3. The purpose of life is to glorify God by coming to faith and growing in faith, and to share that faith with others by our word and example.
4. God demonstrates in His Word that while there may be different qualities of life, He extends to all human life an absolute value, being the object of His love and plan of salvation. To God, all life has value and wants us to show love for lives and souls without respect to quality. This means we must share the Gospel with everyone now, not later.
5. While suffering is a result of living in a sinful world, the Christian faces it knowing God can use it to display His power, strengthen the sufferer's faith, and to provide an avenue for the faith of others to be put into action. This means that no matter what our circumstances in life might be, God will use them for our good and for His good purpose.
6. A Christian will recognize that sin brought death into this world but Christ changed the results of death. The Christian longs for death and the paradise that comes by faith in Christ, but will seek to hold onto life as a time of faithful service to God until it is clear God wants to take him out of this life.

Death is unnatural; it is not the way God wanted it when He first created the world. Yet, for the Christian death is not to be feared. And, a Christian will never dictate to the Lord when death will come.

If we believe that God is the giver of life, both physical and spiritual, then it will be easier to deal with the life-issues that bombard us each day. As Christians, we know that we can't relegate life-issues to the political arena and decide anything there. It must be that we look to the Word of God for guidance in every decision and every direction we go. The bottom line: Being pro-life means we are pro-God. **AMEN.**