

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Message
"In Him Was Life"
by Rev. Dale Lee

Text: John 1:4a (NIV)

Introduction

Believe it or not, there is a debate among some scholars as to whether there is such a thing as "truth." One view is that "truth" does not exist; everything is a matter of interpretation. The Founding Fathers of America did not hold to such a view and believers in the Lord Jesus do not either. Jesus declared in prayer to the Father, "your word is truth." (John 17:17, NIV) The Founders declared in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." America was founded by men who believed that the right to life applied to all people because this right was self-evidently given by our Creator. As we observe **Sanctity of Life Sunday**, we must recommit ourselves to the Biblical truth that life is a gift from God and must be valued and protected as such.

God's Word teaches us that **"In him was life..."** (John 1:4a, NIV). **The Lord Jesus is the Source and Sustainer of all life.**

1. Jesus is the Creator of Life.

"Through him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made."(John 1:3, NIV)

2. Jesus is the Author of Life.

"You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead..." (Acts 3:15, NIV)

3. Jesus is the Word of Life.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." (1 John 1:1, NIV)

4. Jesus is the Bread of Life.

"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry..." (John 6:35, NIV)

5. Jesus is Abundant Life.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10, NIV; "more abundantly," NKJ)

6. Jesus is Our Life.

"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Colossians 3:4, NIV)

Since the Lord Jesus is the Source and Sustainer of life, it must be valued and protected.

On this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we especially declare that **unborn human life** must be valued and protected. It must not be destroyed in the name of science (through embryonic stem cell research, for example) or so-called "reproductive rights" (abortion).

What is embryonic stem cell research and why is it wrong?

A stem cell is essentially a "blank" cell, capable of becoming another more differentiated cell type in the body, such as a skin cell, a muscle cell, or a nerve cell. Stem cells are used to replace or heal damaged tissues and cells in the body. There are two broad classes of stem cells: "embryonic" and "adult." Embryonic stem cells come from harvesting living embryos (which always destroys the embryo) from miscarriages or aborted fetuses. Adult stem cells come from many sources such as umbilical cords, placentas, adult tissue, cadavers or even fat. (see FRC pamphlet "Stem Cell Research, Cloning and Human Embryos")

Dr. David Prentice, senior fellow for Life Science at the Family Research Council and recognized international expert on stem cells, tells us that "Embryonic stem cells don't deliver. The implication that embryonic stem cells will provide 'life-saving cures' -...is patently false...To date, research scientists have failed to provide even one treatment for human patients with embryonic stem cells. Furthermore, trials in mice have repeatedly shown that the treatment will be problematic. At its best, embryonic stem-cell research is unnecessary; at its worst; it's deeply unethical. Peddling this false hope to desperate people is shameful. Adult stem cells, meanwhile, are producing treatments and hope for people right now." ([article printed in the Christian Science Monitor](#))

There are four categories of stem cells: embryonic stem cells, embryonic germ cells; umbilical cord stem cells, and adult stem cells. Christians, in general, approve three of these, opposing only embryonic stem cell research because it requires the destruction of human life.

Abortion is the murder of innocent human life.

God's Word is undeniably clear: "**You shall not murder.**" (Exodus 20:13, commandment number 6) This command clearly prohibits the killing of innocent human life. Does the Bible consider unborn children as human beings? Let's look at the evidence.

Exodus 21:22-23

"If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life." (NIV)

The English Standard Version reads "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her **children** come out..." (emphasis added) This Scripture teaches that if a woman was struck while two men were fighting and consequently gave birth prematurely but with no harm to the baby, a fine was levied. If there was a miscarriage, then the law of retaliation applied. The ESV translators used the word "children" to describe the unborn. Children are human beings and were protected by God's law.

Job 10:8-12

"Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews?: You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit." (NIV)

God made Job in his mother's womb. Job is a person, not a thing. God's care of Job as an embryo, a human being, is in view here. Job is reminding God of His special creative care of him in the womb as special reason to end his present suffering, which Job viewed as from God.

Psalms 139:13-16

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (NIV)

The Expositor's Bible Commentary tells us concerning this Scripture, "The Lord has formed the individual as a spiritual ('you created my inmost being [kidneys],' v. 13) and a physical being ('you knit me together'). The phrase "inmost being" is literally "kidneys." Hebrew scholars tell us that this word, when used figuratively, refers to the "innermost aspects of personality." (see Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Vol. 1, p. 440) God created aspects of David's personality, not at birth but **before** it. David was a person before he was born in the eyes of God. All children are persons in the eyes of God before birth.

Genesis 25:22, 24

"The babies jostled each other within her... When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb." (NIV)

The English Standard Version translation reads, "The **children** struggled together within her..." (emphasis added). From God's perspective Rebekah had babies or children **within her**. She had twin boys in her womb. Before they were born, Jacob and Esau were considered children in the eyes of God.

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."(NIV)

In this amazing revelation God is encouraging Jeremiah in preparation for his assigned ministry. From God's perspective, He knew Jeremiah the person before He formed him in his mother's womb. God did not know some "thing" or object but the person Jeremiah, even before his formation in the womb.

Luke 1:41,44; 2:12,16

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb...As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy...This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger...So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger." (NIV)

The Holy Spirit inspired Luke to use the same Greek word (brephos) to refer to both an unborn and newborn child. In the mind of the Lord both the unborn and the born were children, not tissue. Just as the newborn baby Jesus was a person, so was the unborn John the Baptist. In God's view, a baby is a baby whether born or preborn.

The Old Testament prophets were especially strong in their warnings about killing children. (see Jeremiah 7:30-34; Ezekiel 16:20-21; 36-38; 20:31; 2 Kings 21:2-6 with Jeremiah 15:3-4)

God's View of Children:

"Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...(Psalm 127:3-5, NIV)

Conclusion

God's Word clearly forbids the killing of innocent human life. God clearly considers the preborn as children, as human beings. To kill a preborn person is murder in the eyes of God. The Lord Jesus is the Source and Sustainer of all of life. Therefore, all of life must be valued and protected. Will you commit yourself to valuing and protecting life as a precious gift from Jesus?