

Sanctity of Life **10-19-14 pm**

Noah's covenant in Genesis 9:1-7 confirmed the law of human life; humans were special (being in the image of God, Genesis 1:16) and therefore man's blood was not to be shed. God had already made the law clear in Genesis 4:8-12. This is the "Sanctity of Life"; Sanctity – Holiness.

God forms ALL men:

Job 10:8 'Your hands fashioned and made me altogether, And would You destroy me?

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Psalm 119:73 Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.

Sanctity of Life Questions

Suicide & Assisted Suicide

Does it take the life of one in God's image? Does the Bible speak about suicide? In fact, all of the suicides in the Bible (with the exception of Samson, a special case) were by depraved men in sinful conditions. What about when people are suffering? When Job's wife told him to "curse God and die", he rejected her advice as foolishness. Even in extreme suffering, suicide is not an option. What about helping others self-murder? When David caught the man who aided Saul in his suicide, he was executed for murder.

Abortion

Does it take the life of one in God's image? In fact, the Bible says that man was formed by God in the womb.

Job 31:15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

Psalm 139:13 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

Isaiah 44:24 This is what the Lord says — your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart

Does the age, development, etc change it? The law of Moses tells us that it does not in Exodus 21:22-24, where the injury to a fetus resulted in "Eye for an eye" repercussions.

Self-Defense

We see God's rule of self-defense in the law of Moses in Exodus 22:1-3. There it was clear that one could take another person's life if they were in danger. The apostles themselves carried weapons for their protection (Luke 22:38). But we must be careful that when we act, it is in defense of our lives, not our property (Matthew 5:38-42)

Capital Punishment

Taking a life as a form of justice is only an ancient right of government as seen in Romans 13:1-4 and Leviticus 24:16. As Christians, such is not our place. The same is true of warfare; a country will be judged for this conduct, but Christians do not have a place in it.

Prolonging Our Lives

Technology enables us to extend life by curing diseases, preventing death, keeping alive under dire circumstances or keeping alive when the mind is gone. Are Christians obligated to prolong life? In

Philippians 1:21-24 & II Timothy 4:6-8 Paul made it clear that any prolonging of his life was to meet the obligations he had; otherwise, he looked forward to his reward. In Acts 7:58 & 12:2 we see Christians put to death when they may have had an opportunity to flee. Ultimately, we look to Jesus on the Cross in John 19:30. When death was inevitable and when His earthly obligations were completed (i.e. care of His mother) He surrendered His spirit. He did not fight to continue living, and it was certainly not suicide to do so.

As Christians we are told that we have given up our lives in service to God (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:3). We are prepared to sacrifice our lives in service (II Timothy 3:12, I Peter 4:16) Whatever mindset we have towards life and death needs to accept that our lives are not our own; we have surrendered them to service to God, and we must make decisions in this life with that mind in place. Ultimately this life has this purpose: to serve God & to secure our place in eternity