

Sanctity of Life 2022 - Don't forget to live

1. Life is big.

Denominations and various Christian enterprises have developed schedules for Bible readings, lessons, and preaching to make sure that the whole Bible is covered systematically over a defined course of time. There is even a whole style of sermon preparation called Expository Preaching which focuses only on verse-by-verse messages through the Bible, service after service.

As Fundamentalists, we try to be more flexible and balanced with series of expositional sermons as well as preaching on special topics. Annual commemorations become established because they deal with significant aspects of culture that help us to keep a good balanced perspective on what is important. People joke about Christians who only show up for Christmas and Easter (which is neither funny nor untrue), but there are other things that we commonly recognize to one degree or another like Independence Day, Memorial Day, Anti-Occult Day (Halloween), Labor Day, Mothers and Fathers Day, Valentine's Day, and Graduation Day. When Paul took leave of the Ephesians, he pointed out to them:

Acts 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Although we talk about the issue of the life of the unborn at other times, we make sure to remind ourselves as we join with believers across the nation to call attention to the great travesty of abortion.

- David recognized that he was a person before he was completely formed in the womb.

Psa 139:13-16 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

14I will praise thee; for I am

fearfully *and* wonderfully made:
marvellous *are* thy works; and
that my soul knoweth right well.
15My substance was not hid from
thee, when I was made in secret,
and curiously wrought in the
lowest parts of the earth.

16Thine eyes did see my
substance, yet being unperfect;
and in thy book all *my members*
were written, *which* in
continuance were fashioned,
when *as yet there was* none of
them.

- Jesus existed in the womb.

Luke 1:28-35 And the angel
came in unto her, and said, Hail,
thou that art highly favoured, the
Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art*
thou among women.

29And when she saw *him*, she
was troubled at his saying, and
cast in her mind what manner of
salutation this should be.

30And the angel said unto her,
Fear not, Mary: for thou hast
found favour with God.

31And, behold, thou shalt
conceive in thy womb, and bring
forth a son, and shalt call his
name JESUS.

32He shall be great, and shall be
called the Son of the Highest:
and the Lord God shall give unto
him the throne of his father
David:

33And he shall reign over the
house of Jacob for ever; and of
his kingdom there shall be no
end.

34Then said Mary unto the angel,
How shall this be, seeing I know
not a man?

35And the angel answered and
said unto her, The Holy Ghost
shall come upon thee, and the
power of the Highest shall
overshadow thee: therefore also
that holy thing which shall be
born of thee shall be called the
Son of God.

Disingenuous people don't want to count a life as a baby until it is delivered, and then some debate that even after birth it is not necessarily so. Some politicians have even blocked the protection of life after a failed abortion. We have to ask, at one point, then, did Jesus become God in the flesh? Did He just hang out waiting for the birth and then jumped inside the body? Did He jump in to inhabit the body of the fetus when the fetal heart started beating? Or did Jesus become incarnate when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary?

- John the Baptist certainly recognized that Jesus was there in Mary before either he or Jesus was born.

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

- God certainly takes the killing of the unborn as homicide deserving of capital punishment.

Ex 21:22-25 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart *from her*, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*.

23And if *any* mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life,
24Eye for eye, tooth for tooth,
hand for hand, foot for foot,
25Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

There is a reason we want to describe life as big, though. Sanctity of Life Sunday calls upon us to pay attention to the value of Life in general. Certainly the issue of abortion on demand is at the forefront of our burden for our country, but the issue of life is reaches much farther. It is encouraging to see the courts and congress catching up to the science on life. The scientific pressure is building

to recognize the impossibility of life apart from God.¹ More scientists have responded to that pressure and admitted that this is a problem for atheistic evolution. In light of this, even if the legislature and the courts catch up to science and recognize that pre-born life is a miracle of God to be protected, the issue of the sanctity of life will not just dissipate and fade away with legal advances in dealing with the social ill of abortion. When preaching about the Sanctity of Life, we recognize the full scope of the value of Life and living from the creation of life to passing on to eternal life. Although political promotion of wanton destruction of unborn children feeds the corruption of society, it is actually *one* symptom of Godlessness in society. The larger issue is the life we can have as a child of God and the abundance of life in Him.

John 10:9-10 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

The book of Ecclesiastes is great to read. It presents life in stark terms, which at the beginning presents a certain sense of hopelessness for life here on earth. The first chapters Solomon wrote describe how all the magnificent and entertaining things he had were a disappointment because they left him so empty. In the middle of the book, Solomon speaks of how we might as well be responsible adults in spite of how ultimately empty life is. So how is it a great read? It is when you get to the end. He makes a great case for how life *under the sun* is all vanity. And then, like a diamond cutter who knows just where to tap with his chisel bringing forth the

¹<https://www.discovery.org/a/24041/> and <https://dissentfromdarwin.org/about/>

beauty that lies within the gem, he delivers this:

Ecc1 12:12-14 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

13Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

14For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

All of life has significance only in Christ. Someone might fancy himself to be an Epicure, or what is known today as a "foodie." Another might wax eloquent about Freddie Mercury or the monotones of rap. Another might revel in the artistic message of a toilet as they stare at it on display at museum. Such *apparent* "sophistication" might come off as impressive but it is *at best* like a flower sinking in a sewer of sin. The roar of the accolades of an earthly crowd will become a faded memory here and drowned out by the roar of the fires of hell in all eternity. The sanctity of life covers not only life before birth, but life after birth, and life after being born again as a child of God.

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

There is no meaningful life apart from knowing God and how you fit in

His plan.

1Tim 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1Tim 6:3-12 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2. Don't forget to live.

In 2021, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg introduced his contribution to the "Metaverse". The term Metaverse describes a new kind of digital alternate universe that is supposed to bring people together. Iceland quickly put out an ad for visiting their country that was a parody of Zuckerberg's promotion (he actually took it quite well).² A man identified as Zack Mossbergson invites you to join him to "connect our world without being super weird." He explains, "Some say it's out of reach, to them we say it's already here. Seriously, look, it's right here," as he points to an Icelandic landscape outside his windows. He continues, "And all this without silly looking headsets." The ad promotes visiting Iceland where everything you can enjoy is *real*.

The most glaring problem of the digital age especially applied to social media is that you are looking at a distilled extract of life. There is a difference between looking at a picture, or even a video of a beach and being with your best friend looking down at your feet and seeing fish and other sea life in motion, feeling the warmth of the water and the sun and the sand under your feet, smelling the sea air, with a gentle breeze wafting over you, listening to the call of a pelican, watching a live barracuda as you retreat to a cool iced tea and an even cooler fellowship with someone you can touch and laugh with. There *is* a good purpose that the internet might serve. Just as vanilla extract might have a good purpose, but you don't drink it with a straw. We run the risk of getting caught up in some idealized representation of life that we forget to *live* life populated by real people. People matter. At the very beginning of mankind, God pointed out that it is not good for man to be alone and then He expanded humanity by creating Eve and told the new family to multiply. Life was meant to be lived in community.

²https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enMwwQy_nol

Paul understood this when he wrote to the Philippians. If he thought only about himself, it would be better to leave this world and go home to God.

Phil 1:21-26 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

22But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

25And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

26That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

The thing that made life in the flesh *equally* attractive to him was the people and the mission of the Gospel. While we are busy studying the Bible, don't forget to live the reality of life around you.

We often look at the Law through one aspect of the Law: don't sin. When you read through the Law, there are large portions about how to *celebrate* and to recognize God as part of our lives. Somewhere in our abundance of caution we end up *minimizing real life*. In minimizing our discomfort we end up serving our flesh at the expense of the spiritual. It is in this setting that the abortion industry inserts itself.

Having a child is seen sometimes as an inconvenience and an impediment to life. Such an attitude is immature. We should not only adapt to the difficulties of having children, but we should embrace the opportunities to serve and glorify God through the awesome responsibilities that come with new life.

As we champion life for the unborn, our critics mock us for not being in line to adopt kids while they support systems that place immense obstacles in the way of adoption. It can cost \$70,000 to go through the system for adoption. Killing

a child is the Bizzaro World answer to children being born into non-affluent homes.

We must raise our consciousness of Kingdom life, or life in the Kingdom of God if we are to fulfill our sense of life. The Kingdom of God will replace this world when Christ returns to destroy the Antichrist and his kingdom attempt. We do not seek to replace this world, but to *displace* it. We want to provide a *true* alternate universe for people to join by salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Our job is to maintain this work as an oasis of faith where people can move on from grasping at comfort as they fight a losing battle for survival. When that sense of life prevails, abortion loses because it becomes something irrelevant. Politics might catch up to science and abortion might disappear in effect, but that is only one battle in the war for life. Satan doesn't give up:

1Pet 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:

As we live it up in Christ, reaching the children who are here around us, finding support and joy in others, reaching the lost, creating the kind of church where all of this can be found by sustaining it with our support, *that* is how we will celebrate life.

1. Life is big. Acts 20:27, Psa 139:13-16, Luke 1:28-35, 1:44, Ex 21:22-25, John 10:9-10, Eccl 12:12-14, John 3:16-18, 1Tim 4:16, 6:3-12
2. Don't forget to live. Phil 1:21-26, 1Pet 5:8