

Sanctity of Life - Choose Responsibly

1. Choose life -

When we think about Sanctity of Life Sunday, there is a popular slogan that says *Choose Life*. This is generally a statement about choosing life for the unborn instead of abortion. It can also be applied as well to a general statement on the value of human life. Do we value human life? Do we value the life that God has graced us with? We might be a little bit cynical and focus on difficulties in life, but if we are little bit humble we would admit that God *has* been gracious to us. Do we appreciate and value the blessings, skills, talents, and possibilities that God has made possible with life? When we look at a child, do we stop to consider all the directions that life could go for God? When we look at an older person, do we think of all that he or she has had the victory over and what they can share? When we talk to someone who has a hard time communicating, do we appreciate what they are going through and how happy they are to connect with us? In a larger sense, we should rejoice in the life that God has given *all* of us. The sanctity of life means that we hold life as a sacred obligation given to us by God.

- God blesses us with life.

Ps 139:14-18 I 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.

17How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

18If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

- God's blesses His people.

Deut 28:1-12 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

4Blessed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5Blessed *shall be* thy basket and thy store.

6Blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou comest in, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* when thou goest out.

7The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as

he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

12The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

- God's people bless the world.

Matt 5:43-45 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Gen 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Gen 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy

seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

Choosing life can mean rejoicing in the life that God has given us, but we have to be careful in what that means completely.

2. The world's choice -

The world has a different perspective on what choosing life means. You can find all kinds of possible rules for life on the internet. A very popular list for the *Five Rules of Life* includes, "Live before you die." I commented on this in another sermon, but I want to remind you what the world means when they say you have to live life.

In a worldly sense, to live before you die means to live it up while you can. They say this as if there is nothing to look forward to after you die, as if we don't have to face God to give an account for our life.

In 1Cor 15:32, Paul wrote about how those who have no resurrection have nothing better to look forward to than living it up.

1Cor 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

Paul was saying, even if I could survive one of the gladiatorial fights like they have in Ephesus where you have to fight wild beasts, what advantage is there in knowing Christ and His power if there is no life after death? You are going to die anyhow someday, you might as well

eat and drink and party now.

You might hear it said, like this: "You haven't lived until you..." have tasted this, or gone mountain climbing, or swim with the dolphins, or whatever experience is really breathtaking. Someone thinks they are really livin' if they are indulging in all their desires. They are livin' large. It's all *pura vida*, and *joie de vivre*.

The world wants to have such a life as this consequence free. The world's idea of sin seems to be only making someone feel uncomfortable.

3. Choose responsibility -

To *truly* choose life means to choose to respond *responsibly* to *all* of life. This extends beyond what we *actively* choose. It also refers to how you respond to what happens *to* you. There are certainly some things about living that are up to us, but some things are not. Before God, we have to choose responsibility for how we respond.

People want to avoid accountability. It is common to hear that it's not the criminal's fault, it's some psycho-social problem brought on by poverty, drugs, marginalization, a parent who didn't love you, the fact that you don't love yourself, or whichever president you don't like

Don't fight responsibility, embrace it. Embrace it because you will come out better than if you buck and fight against taking on responsibility. That's life.

Life is not always convenient. It is not just a matter that we have to live according to the choices *we* make, we also have to live responsibly with the choices that are thrust upon us. Life is not always fair, fun, or fulfilling. You still have to choose to live responsibly. That is part of what it means to be an adult. To be a kid doesn't excuse you, it means you are learning things now that will lead you into responsible adulthood. Does that mean you can't be held responsible because you are a child? Only in some things. Like, you can't be

held responsible for a contract...that is why you are not allowed to enter into contracts. You *can* be held responsible for cleaning your room, though, and many other things. Your responsibilities grow as you grow. You can resist life and its responsibilities or you can choose life which means you embrace responsibility.

The ultimate responsibility is life.

Gen 9:5-6 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

6Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Exo 21:22-23 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,

It is very interesting that the word fruit is not the normal word for fruit. If it were, someone might argue that it is merely referring to a fetus as a product of conception and not a person. The Hebrew word that is used here is translated 82 times as either child or young ones and 7 times as sons or young men. There is no way to interpret this passage other than that God considers life in the womb as human life to be protected.

The language of pro-abortionists slips further and further down a slippery slope so that infanticide is in view. Indeed, post-abortion survivors are not guaranteed the opportunity to live. And now, abortion is something that the

world wants to celebrate. At the Golden Globe awards in 2020, an actress celebrated her high honor of receiving a little golden idol.

I've tried my very best to live a life of my own making and not just a series of events that happened to me...And I wouldn't have been able to do this without employing a woman's right to choose.

– Michelle Williams

She evidently found it necessary to sacrifice a child and the "blessing" was to be awarded an idol...how appropriate that it was a little golden statue of the world.

There are some things we can responsibly alter in our lives, and there are some things we must simply responsibly live with.

Ps 37:5,23 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

23The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

4. Held responsible by God -

We are held accountable by God to live up to His standards and so you *have* to do it. You *will* give an account. You can't avoid it. You might not want to be held to account if you steal, slander, hurt others, but the sooner you embrace your accountability the sooner you will be able to enjoy the success that goes with it.

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

If we can prove that we can be responsible for that which is least then we can be given more responsibility.

Luke 12:42-48 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* lord shall make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

God has made us stewards of what He has given us. A steward is put in charge over the affairs of his employer. If employees fail, it is the supervisor who is held responsible. If a mere employee has an accident, he is not held liable for it, the supervisor will be called into account because he was responsible for the employee.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

We have been given life, strength, and a brain. We live in a free country where we can speak freely. We have the Bible in abundance. We have the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Isa 44:2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, *which* will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isa 44:24 Thus saith the LORD,

thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I *am* the LORD that maketh all *things*; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

God created us for a purpose, but, many people don't use these gifts that God has given us to fulfill that purpose. We will be held accountable for all of this, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

The absolute ultimate responsibility is to choose eternal life. When you embrace responsibility before God and bring yourself into compliance by accepting the salvation God offers, you will ultimately live in the most fabulous place (heaven is better than hell). If you buck and resist God, you might seem to have success for a piece of time, and it might even be for a lifetime, but it won't be for an eternal lifetime. Choose God, choose Christ, don't choose a way that *seems* right to you, choose eternal life. When Pilate sat in judgment of Christ, he asked the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" He chose to let others answer the question for him.

Matt 27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

When you have the question put to you, "What will you do with Jesus?" will you let the world answer for you? You will be held responsible by God for your answer.

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2. The world's choice - 1Cor 15:32,
3. Choose responsibility - Gen 9:5-6, Exo 21:22-23, Ps 37:5,23
4. Held responsible by God - Luke

16:10, Luke 12:42-48, Isa 44:2, Isa
44:24, Matt 27:22