

Sanctity of Life 2021 - Christ and the Children

1. Life is precious.

Working with children is so endearing. There are so many little things that make them so precious.

- A small child is someone who can wash his hands without getting the soap wet.
- A child is a person who can't understand why someone would give away a perfectly good kitten. (Doug Larson)
- Men are generally more careful of their horses and dogs than of their children. (Wm. Penn)
- Almost every child would learn to write sooner if allowed to do his homework on wet cement.

– <https://bible.org/illustration/one-liners-0>

Mark 10:13-16 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*.

14But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

15Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

16And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

Jesus saw the believing nature of children far more endearing. They can be so trusting that it heaps even more judgment on those who violate such innocence.

Matt 18:1-7 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

2And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

3And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

4Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

6But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

7Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

The things that cause fear for children have changed over the years.

In 1990, researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported that 30 years earlier, the greatest fears of grade school children were: 1) Animals, 2) Being in a dark room, 3) High places, 4) Strangers, 5) Loud noises.

Today, kids are afraid of the following: 1) Divorce, 2) Nuclear war, 3) Cancer, 4) Pollution, 5) Being mugged.

— Back to the Bible Today, Summer, 1990, p. 5

Someone said, "In God's eyes, *Life is Sacred*, but in America, *Life is Scared!*"

2. Life is sacred because God made it.

- It was created by God.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Col. 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

- It is protected by God.

Job 10:12 Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.

Psalms 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

- It is valued by God.

Isaiah 49:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

John 10:10 The 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.

Have you ever done a piece of needlework, or woodworking, or ceramics for someone special to you? Or for yourself? Or what about an organization, a ministry, a campaign that you founded? You always have a very special place in your heart for that which you had a primary role in creating, don't you? Imagine how God feels when He creates each one of us, and then we are simply "thrown away?"

3. Life is sacred no matter what its condition might be.

- Life is a challenge in a sin-tainted world.

It would be wonderful if God's original plan had materialized, but unfortunately sin came into our world and with it came pain, imperfection, injustice, etc. God warned us of these challenges and enables those who trust in Him to be victorious through Him.

1Pet 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

- We must not overlook those who have challenges in this life.

Our Lord placed great value on those whom society has shuffled aside.

Mark 1:40-41 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.
41And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth *his* hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

While on his knees, the leper begged Jesus to make him clean. The Scripture says that Jesus was moved with compassion.

Matt 25:34-40 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?

38When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?

39Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

Each life is unique and valuable in God's eyes, even from the moment of conception.

Have you ever seen an apparently healthy driver pull into a parking space

marked "Handicapped" at the grocery store? A feeling of indignation rises in your chest, doesn't it?

Yet when someone is pregnant with a child that the "experts" say may be less than perfect, they are encouraged to eliminate it. Or when an elderly person has been partially incapacitated by illness, some advocate facilitating their demise.

Why is it that, in the first instance at the grocery store, being disabled engenders a desire to protect, to defend, to stand up for; and in the other two, there's only a desire to get rid of "the problem?"

The unborn, the elderly, the disabled, the terminally ill -- if these are only "problems" to us and have no intrinsic value of their own, then we naturally become very lax about conveniently disposing of them at both ends of life's spectrum.

Francis Schaeffer warned us in the 70s that abortion was the beginning of a slippery slope of denigration of human life that would eventually lead to euthanasia and such things as physician-assisted suicides. People were skeptical then; but by 2019, there are 10 states that have laws that allow for euthanasia. We lost that battle and now we don't even think about it Why? We decide when someone's life is no longer "useful" enough or of sufficient "quality" to be allowed to continue. All human life is sacred.

4. Life is sacred because of its immortal nature.

Ps 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.

Satan has convinced people "the timing" of life does not begin at conception. But God superintends every human life from its earliest moments in the womb. David clearly implies in Psalm 139 that God is intimately involved in the process of embryological development.

David was not some amorphous blob of tissue at conception, but a spiritual being with a sin nature. Your days are not only numbered, but your ministries already planned. Several individuals in Scripture were called to their respective ministries while still in the womb. The Lord told the prophet Jeremiah:

Jer 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

The Hebrew verb used in this verse for 'to know' goes far deeper than mere intellectual knowledge or awareness. It means personal commitment and intimate experience with the person known. God knew him and was involved in a personal way with him before he was conceived. Isaiah and Paul also.

Now, if you read these verses as though this were something extraordinary which applied only to prophets and apostles, you have misread the whole passage. What you fail to see is that what the Lord said about the prophets and apostles is true about you also. There is nothing unusual about it. God never made another one like you, and he never will. God never made anyone else who can fill the place you can fill and do the things you can do. This is the wonder of the way God forms human life — that of the billions and billions that have been born upon this earth there are no duplicates. Each one is unique, prepared of God for the time in which he is to live. That is the word, which came to Jeremiah to strengthen him. "Look," God said, "I have prepared you for this very hour," as he has prepared you and me for this time, for this world, for this hour of human history. Each of you is therefore both the goal toward which God has been working, and at the same time, the preparation of someone yet to come. And you have a part in their work. What a gift you have! God has prepared you for this moment, through the generations which lie behind you, that you might live and speak and act in this time in history.

God is saying, "I started getting you ready, and the world ready for you, long before you were born. I worked through your father and your mother, your grandfathers and grandmothers, your *g r e a t - g r a n d f a t h e r s* and great-grandmothers. For generations back I have been preparing you." What a remarkable revelation. History reveals that the mother of Sir Walter Scott loved poetry and art. It is no wonder he followed his mother's loves in this way. The mother of Napoleon Bonaparte was ambitious for herself and her children. The mother of John and Charles Wesley was a godly and devout woman, with great ability. God prepares for a child long before that child is born. This is true even for God's Son. Galatians 4:4 says,

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Jesus entered the world at the point of

conception. We celebrate the Incarnation at Christmas, Jesus' birth, but the actual event took place at conception. This reality is brought home when Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth a short time later. Listen to Luke

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Even nature confirms life starts at conception. Inherent in the seed are all the characteristics of the grown plant.

The second truth of God's word that counters the conception deception is that **CONTROL OF ONE'S BODY BELONGS TO THE LORD**. Satan has convinced society of a woman's absolute right to her own body. However, the Word of God says,

1Cor 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

The women's "right to choose" often becomes the opportunity for her parents, an angry boyfriend, or an economically motivated doctor to choose instead, denying the women her choice - life for her child. The right to use one's body as one sees fit is not absolute. Even in the landmark Roe versus Wade decision, Supreme Court Justice said:

"It is not clear to us that the claim that one has an unlimited right to do with one's body as one pleases bears a close relationship to the right of privacy previously articulated in the Court's decisions. The court has refused to recognize an unlimited right of this kind in the past."

A personal right ends when exercise of such a right could or does lead to endangering one's own life or the lives of others (e.g., drunk driving and drug addiction; murder; endangering another's life through negligence). In abortion, it is the status of these "others" that results in 4000 deaths a day.

Society is quick to focus on freedom of choice but slow to focus on the results of such choices. You soon forget there are two victims in abortion the child who dies and the mother who bears the emotional and psychological scars. With no acknowledgment of the loss of life, there is no funeral and no healthy grief process. This often leads to later relational problems and post-abortion stress disorder. Many women privately live the life described in Matthew 2:18 after Herod had all the babies murdered.

Matt 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and

great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

David Reardon in his book, *The Jericho Plan* says, "Abortion is an act of despair." He notes over 70 percent of women undergoing abortion believe the procedure is morally wrong. They have fallen prey to Satan's deception and act against their conscience because they feel they have no other choice. Reardon points out that those who are experiencing doubts, grief or regret about the abortion are unable to share that pain. He said, "They don't feel they can share with their own family, much less within their church, because they're afraid of the rejection." If they try to share their grief with someone who is pro-choice, they are going to be told, "Just forget about it and go on with your life. It really wasn't a baby yet." Sadly, those who favor a woman's right to choose don't want to authenticate the woman's grief for fear of casting the decision as immoral. Don't live in denial. Abortion kills babies and hurts women, men and families as well as the church. Until you deal with the pain you are never going to see the truth because it hurts so much.

One pastor wrote, "What is more fun then watching a little kid come into the room on Christmas morning. When Annie and Stephen and Deborah were little little we used to put the tree up on Christmas Eve and that way we'd get the full meal deal. They'd come down stairs, around the corner and see the tree, the lights, the decorations and all the gifts. It was like total sensory overload. Their eyes got this big their jaws dropped open. It was great. But it's not just at Christmas, children marvel at what God has done throughout the year. They see the magic in rainbows and stars, they laugh at animals playing and marvel at creation. Watch a little kid at the beach, every thing is a discovery and most of their discoveries are fabulous treasures."

Charles Francis Adams, 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today--a day wasted." His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father--the most wonderful day of my life!" The father thought he was wasting his time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time. The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly.

– Silas Shotwell, in *Homemade*, September 1987

There are many gifts we can give to our children:

1. The gift of oneself as a very loving father or mother.
2. The gift of being available for counsel, guidance and encouragement.
3. The gift of a spiritual foundation by affirming God, praying with and for the children.
4. The gift of showing sympathy for the poor, handicapped, ill, unemployed, persecuted and others.
5. The gift of being an example in seeking justice for all, being completely fair in dealing with others and being truthful at all times.
6. The gift of being a good steward of time, talent and possessions.
7. The gift of showing how to keep debt to a minimum and savings to the maximum.
8. The gift of keeping one's life in balance so that no activity, such as work, prohibits family activities.
9. The gift of discipline in terms of eating, exercising, reading, doing home chores and worshiping together.
10. The gift of humor, enabling fun and joyfulness to be a prominent part of family life.

— Charles Ferrell

These are all gifts we give them because God gave them the gift of life. It is only by Orwellian newspeak that an unborn child is treated as a disease in the name of reproductive health. We now face new challenges in man's attack on the unborn all in the name of health.

Today marks the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Roe v. Wade*.

In the past four years, reproductive health, including the right to choose, has been under relentless and extreme attack. We are deeply committed to making sure everyone has access to care – including reproductive health care – regardless of income, race, zip code, health insurance status, or immigration status.

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to codifying *Roe v. Wade* and appointing judges that respect foundational precedents like *Roe*. ... This commitment extends to our critical work on health outcomes around the world.

—whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/22/statement-from-president-biden-and-vice-president-harris-on-the-48th-anniversary-of-roe-v-wade/

Dr. Fauci is now representing the Biden administration to the World Health Organization. He reported to them that the policy is going to be revoked by the President that held back funding foreign organizations which promoted abortion. We need to be informed, conscious, and praying about the doubled-down efforts to destroy unborn lives.

It will be our policy to support women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and reproductive

rights in the United States, as well as globally. To that end, President Biden will be revoking the Mexico City Policy in the coming days, as part of his broader commitment to protect women's health and advance gender equality at home and around the world.

[-hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/21/dr-anthony-s-fauci-remarks-world-health-organization-executive-board-meeting.html](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/01/21/dr-anthony-s-fauci-remarks-world-health-organization-executive-board-meeting.html)

Our mission is to teach the value of the least soul to God and bring people back into fellowship with God through salvation. If we back down from those who seek to establish as the state orthodoxy of death as health, the rest of our Biblical values will not be far behind on the trash heap history.

1. Life is precious. Mark 10:13-16, Matt 18:1-7
2. Life is sacred because God made it. Gen 1:27, Col. 1:16, Job 10:12, Psalm 91:11, Isaiah 49:16, Jeremiah 1:5, John 10:10
3. Life is sacred no matter what its condition might be. 1Pet 5:7, John 16:33, Mark 1:40-41, Matt 25:34-40
4. Life is sacred because of its immortal nature. Ps 139:13-16, Jer 1:5, Gal 4:4-5, Luke 1:41, 1Cor 6:13, Matt 2:18