

Message Notes

In Whose Hand is the Life of Every Living Thing?

Various Texts

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2006

January 15, 2006

III. How we can affirm the Sanctity of Life . . .

1. Pray
2. Receive God's Grace in your own life and show God's grace to others.
3. Read up on and think through bioethical and sanctity of life issues.
4. Be aware of what's happening in the cultural, scientific and political arenas.
5. Be an active citizen by voting, contacting elected representatives and peaceful protesting.
6. Volunteer and support a crisis pregnancy center.
7. Open your home to an unwed mother or foster child.
8. Open your heart to the possibility of adoption.
9. Discuss and make plans for your own and your family's elderly care and end of life issues.
10. Learn to value life in all its ages and stages by spending time with people in life stages that differ from your own.

grace
San Luis Obispo

Message Outline

In Whose Hand is the Life of Every Living Thing?

Various Texts

Sanctity of Life Sunday 2006

January 15, 2006

A Sample of Issues relating to the Sanctity of Life

- Reproductive technologies
- Genetic engineering & cloning
- Suicide
- Embryonic stem cell therapies
- Euthanasia and assisted suicide
- Abortion

I. Why I'm compelled to address the Sanctity of Life . . .

- A. Recent personal experience.
- B. Cultural directions and trends.
- C. A conviction that the sanctity of life is a moral issue, not a political issue.
- D. A conviction that theology is practical and the Bible is relevant.
- E. A commitment to preach "the whole council of God."
- F. A commitment to equip the multigenerational people of God to think Biblically and live Gospel-centered lives.

II. What the Bible teaches about the Sanctity of Life . . .

- A. The Sanctity of Life is rooted in the Biblical assertion that God is the Lord of life.
 1. God is the Giver of life (Job 12:10, 33:4, Acts. 17:25-26)
 2. The Weaver in the womb (Job. 10:8, Ps. 22:9, 139:13-14)
 3. The Sustainer of life (Acts 17:28, Col. 1:15-17)
 4. The Appointer of days (Ps. 139:16, Heb. 9:27)
- B. The Sanctity of Life is revealed in the Biblical teaching that humankind is created in the image of God. (Gen. 1:26-27)
- C. The Sanctity of Life is reflected in the Biblical commands against murder.
 1. Murder (Ex. 20:13)
 2. Child Sacrifice (Lev. 18:21, 20:1-5, Deut. 12:31, 18:31)
 3. Manslaughter of a fetus (Ex. 21:22-25)

Growth Group Discussion Questions

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1. Read Psalm 139:1-16 together. What does this tell us about God's knowledge of our lives? What does this tell us about God's care for our lives? What does this passage say about the life in the womb?
2. What is the 3 pronged Biblical basis for the Sanctity of Life? Using the outline, take the time to look up some of the verses that relate to each of the three prongs under point two. Could you layout the case for Sanctity of Life for a friend if necessary? Why don't you try it by roll playing with a friend?
3. Read Exodus 21:22-25. What do we learn from this text?
4. Why does the question from Job 12:10 shape the way we think about all of these bioethical questions? (You better look it up!)
5. What do the contemporary issues relating to the Sanctity of Life have to do with "Lordship" in our lives?

Growth Group Discussion Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Look at the list of the "Issues relating to the Sanctity of Life" in the box on the outline? Which ones have you had direct experience with? How did you respond in those circumstances?
3. Why is it so important that we know what the Bible teaches about the Sanctity of Life? Does the Bible speak to every situation and circumstance? If not, then what do we do in the situations that the Bible doesn't address?
4. In real life, what kinds of things can creep in and trump God's Lordship in our lives? What are some cultural arguments that come into play to challenge and undermine the sanctity of life in real life?
5. On the list of 10 ways to "affirm the Sanctity of Life" which is the most challenging or daunting to you? Where do you need to start to get your head and heart in this bioethics/Sanctity of Life game?