

Grace & Truth Inside Out
Sanctity of Life: Made in the Image of God
Various Passages

I. Opening Issues

- A. Personal and/or Private Pain (Male, Female, Parent, Child, Relative, Friend)
- B. Secularism and the Public Square (Legal, Philosophical and Political Quotes)
- C. When Does Life Begin? and How Is Life Defined? (Focus on life in womb; bearing on all other life stages)
 - 1. 1973 Roe v. Wade instrumental; Though, DNA strands are species-specific at conception
 - 2. Two Views of Personhood:
 - a. Developmental, Sociological, Psychological, and Interactive View ("Human value is an achievement rather than an endowment")
 - B. Biological, Genetic or Structural View (Fundamental idea is that when human life is present there is a human person with rights, including right to life)
 - 3. Three step criteria leads to a conclusion regarding personhood (see below)
- D. Personal Autonomy, Privacy and Preference
 - 1. 1973 Doe v. Bolton instrumental ("health" of mother is jeopardized; includes physical, emotional, socioeconomic, and other factors)
- E. By the Numbers
 - 1. Abortion - Worldwide: 2011, approximately 42 million (more than one per second); U.S.: 2011, just over 1 million abortions (approximately one every 30 seconds); Studies* using 2008 data revealed that at least half of American women will experience an unintended pregnancy by age 45, and using 2008 abortion rates, one in 10 women will have an abortion by age 20, one in four by age 30 and three in 10 by age 45
 - 2. Human Trafficking (Defined by United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons as the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons...by improper means, such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion, for an improper purpose, such as forced or coerced labor, servitude, slavery or sexual exploitation.") - Worldwide: 20.9 million (according to 2012 International Labour Organization report, a UN agency)
 - 3. Disability - 2010 U.S. Census: Almost 57 million people (19%) had a disability according to broad definition, with nearly half reporting a severe disability
 - 4. End of Life - 2010 U.S. Census: Approximately 40 million people (13%) aged 65+; Growth of this sector over 3x faster than rate of ages below 65 since 1900

II. Biblical Truth Regarding Life

- A. God - Creator (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 100:3) and Sustainer (Psalm 54:4; Acts 17:24-28; Colossians 1:17) of Life
- B. Self - Made in God's Image (Genesis 1:26-27) with Worth/Value (Psalm 8:3-8)
- C. Others - Treat others with the dignity and respect that you would God's image bearer (Genesis 9:6; James 3:8-10); Gospel Lens (Ephesians 2:1-10)

III. Responses

- A. Rejoice in Forgiveness
- B. Worship God
- C. Celebrate, Honor and Defend Life

“The secular vocabulary within which public discourse is constrained to operate today is insufficient to convey our full set of normative convictions and commitments. We manage to debate normative matters anyway—but only by smuggling in notions that are officially inadmissible. . . . The fact that we must smuggle in . . . our real commitments [that we] often cannot articulate . . . even to ourselves—ensures that our discourse will often be barren, unsatisfying, and shallow...”

Steven D. Smith in his book *The Disenchantment of Secular Discourse*, as quoted in Tim Keller's book *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*

“Justice is inescapably judgmental. Whether we're arguing about financial bailouts . . . surrogate motherhood or same-sex marriage, affirmative action or . . . CEO pay . . . questions of justice are bound up with competing notions of honor and virtue, pride and recognition. Justice is not only about the right way to distribute things. It is also about the right way to value things.”

Michael Sandel in his book *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, as quoted in Tim Keller's book *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*

“Secularists are wrong when they ask believers to leave their religion at the door before entering into the public square. Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, William Jennings Bryan, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King—indeed, the majority of great reformers in American history—were not only motivated by faith, but repeatedly used religious language to argue for their cause. So to say that men and women should not inject their “personal morality” into public policy debates is a practical absurdity. Our law is by definition a codification of morality, much of it grounded in the Judeo-Christian tradition.”

Barack Obama, “Call to Renewal Keynote Address,” Washington D.C., June 28, 2006, cited in Sandel's book, as quoted in Tim Keller's book *Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just*

Criteria for Personhood (with Conclusion)

1. Criterion: If x is an embryo made from human sperm and a human egg, then x is a human *being*
2. Criterion: If x is a human being, then x is made in the image of God (Genesis 1)
3. Criterion: If x is made in the image of God, then x is a human *person*
4. Conclusion: If x is a human being, then x is a human person (*key "link" is being made in the image of God*)

From *Ethics for a Brave New World, 2nd Edition*, by John S. Feinberg and Paul D. Feinberg

* 2008 Studies

Henshaw SK, Unintended pregnancy in the United States, *Family Planning Perspectives*, 1998, 30(1):24–29 & 46.

Jones RK and Kavanaugh ML, Changes in abortion rates between 2000 and 2008 and lifetime incidence of abortion, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 2011, 117(6):1358-1366.

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:26-27

“Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7

““The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Job 33:4

“Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Psalms 100:3

“Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.” Psalms 54:4

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'” Acts 17:24-28

“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:17

“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen, And also the beasts of the field, The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.” Psalms 8:3-8

““Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.” Genesis 9:6

“But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.” James 3:8-10

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:1-10