



SANCTITY OF HUMAN

*Life*

SUNDAY

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PASTOR'S PREACHING/RESOURCE E-KIT

A resource guide to help pastors easily and effectively  
share the Gospel and defend unborn life.



## DEAR PASTOR,

Other than the advance of the Gospel itself, there is no cause closer to my heart than promoting the sanctity of human life and protecting the unborn.

As a Southern Baptist, I believe the Bible teaches that all life is sacred and all people, including the unborn, are created in the image of God. As father of two adopted children and a long-time voice in the pro-life movement, this issue is intensely personal to me.

For many years, I have stood beside numerous pastors across this state speaking out for the lives of unborn boys and girls. As one pastor pointed out to me recently, though, many of our young people are new to the pro-life struggle and may not have heard a biblical exposition or sermon series on this key subject.

So I am encouraging every pastor in this state to speak on the issue of life on **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, set for January 17, 2016.**

To that end, I have asked several pastors in our state to share their hearts on this issue and take part in this Sanctity of Human Life emphasis. In this e-resource pack, you will find sample sermons, notes, audio and digital resources. I trust these will be a help to you in your preparation and preaching.

I believe God can use the voices of pastors to equip and challenge their congregations to pray for the unborn and take a stand for life. Together, we can build a culture of life in Oklahoma!



**Dr. Anthony L. Jordan**  
BGC0 Executive Director-Treasurer

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony L. Jordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Anthony L. Jordan

## COMING *Events*

- **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY**  
January 17, 2016
- **ROSE DAY - PRO-LIFE RALLY**  
February 3, 2016  
Oklahoma State Capitol

[www.bgco.org/calendar](http://www.bgco.org/calendar)

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# WHAT'S WRONG WITH... *Abortion*

SERMON FROM NICK GARLAND

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Perhaps no other issue has been more divisive
- B. Ironically, there are church leaders on both sides
- C. Seemingly, it would be clear –
  - 1. 1973 – Roe vs. Wade passed
  - 2. Since then, 52 million abortions
- D. Need to get a grip on scope and state of abortion (get current stats on abortion in US).  
<http://freedomoutpost.com/2015/04/19-statistics-about-abortion-that-every-american-should-know/>
- E. So, what's wrong with abortion?

## I. GOD IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE

- A. Scriptures
  - 1. Gen. 1:26 – man created in God's image – given command to rule (have dominion)
  - 2. Gen. 2:7 – formed from dust ("of the earth"); breath of God
  - 3. Gen. 2:21 – God made woman – rib
  - 4. Ps. 139:13-18
- B. When one destroys life –
  - 1. That person stands against the plan of God – Gen. 9:6  
If a man stands:
    - a) Against his boss & against the rules of the company, he is fired.
    - b) Against the laws of land, he is imprisoned
    - c) Against the instruction of professor, he will fail the class.What if a man stands against God????
  - 2. Abortion cheapens the purpose for a life –
    - a) God made us in His image – elevates

"self-worth" – humanistic evolution theory destroys "worth" by leaving out the Creator God.

PETA – concerned about killing chickens or starving dogs!

USA is not burdened about murdering infants "in the womb"....only a criminal act if a child is killed "outside" of the womb.....

- b) The Evolution "theory" is now the policy of Government and Schools....why?
- c) If there is no Creator, there is no Creator to Whom we are accountable.
- d) Life has no ultimate, present, or eternal purpose.
- 3. The value of life is diminished for elderly when abortion of infants is taught.
- 4. We are witnessing more and more discussion about "assisted suicide" and euthanasia.
- 5. Lack of respect for life at birth works as an encouragement to young people wanting to "dump" a new born in the trash when it is unwanted at birth.

## II. GOD SET MEN APART FROM BEFORE BIRTH

- A. Biblical "moms" saw children as a "gift"  
Jochobed – birthed Moses even though the Pharaoh said "kill" the male babies.  
Sara – birthed at 90. The statistics were "absolutely" against her having a baby at all!  
Mary, mother of Jesus – did not abort to save "face." She endured the shame knowing that destiny of the Babe in her womb.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Oklahoma features 35 evangelical Christian pregnancy resource centers.

- B. Godly men – set apart from womb  
Jer. 15 – Before I formed you, I knew you.  
Set you apart.  
Luke 1:41 – John the Baptist  
Luke 1:35-37 – Jesus

2. Our culture has legalized many things –  
liquor, gambling, porn, prostitution, same-sex  
marriage, and abortion – that does NOT make  
them morally right.

- D. What God creates is marvelous.

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### III. GOD'S CREATION – IS DESTROYED BY ABORTION

- A. When we have “made” something, we are  
defensive and protective.
- B. What if you gave me a “picture” that you painted
1. I added mustache, goofy teeth, eyes, etc.
  2. Wadded it up and left it marred.
  3. Tore it up and threw it away.....  
Would you say, “It’s just a picture.....!” Likely  
not!
- C. Abortion may be legal, but it is not morally right.
1. Laws come and go – God’s laws are forever.

### IV. GOD NEVER CHANGES

- A. I Peter 1:15 – Be holy because I am holy –  
righteous people do righteous things.
- B. If one has had an abortion, need to be reminded  
that God is always ready to forgive – I John 1:9.
- C. God rewards righteousness, which is why all Christ-  
followers should stand for life and seek to eliminate  
abortions in America – Deut. 7:9 – “His reward to  
1000 generations.”

## *Miracle of development –*

- At 4 weeks, a baby is the size of a poppy seed
- At 5 weeks, the tiny heart begins to beat & the body is the size of  
a sesame seed
- At 6 weeks, facial features are beginning to form
- At 8 weeks, arms & legs are growing as well as developing fingers, nose & upper lip
- At 9 weeks, eyes have developed and sense of smell begins to develop
- At 11 weeks, the baby is almost fully formed and bones are beginning to harden
- At 12 weeks, you can hear the baby’s heartbeat
- At 14 weeks, the baby can make facial expressions & may have discovered thumb-  
sucking
- At 19 weeks, the baby can hear sounds from the outside of  
the womb
- At 23 weeks, the baby’s sense of movement has developed
- At 24 weeks, the taste buds are developing and the brain is growing quickly
- At 27 weeks, the baby can open & close its eyes
- At 28 weeks, the baby may be dreaming; it weighs about 2 ¼ pounds  
and is about 15” long
- At 32 weeks, has grown fingernails and toenails
- At 37 weeks, considered full term





# BE ON MISSION FOR THE *Unborn*

## SERMON FROM BRENT PRENTICE

### INTRODUCTION:

There are a number of videos on the Internet in which one person is being beat up and pummeled while a couple of other people, or even a crowd, is standing around watching. Have you seen these videos? If you saw a mother being beaten, with her two-year-old watching, what would you feel? What would you do? Many did nothing! This paralysis in regard to injustice is happening in the world today in many ways. Today we are going to dive head-first into an issue about a horrible and tragic injustice that many are idly watching or all-together ignoring.

The world is not in alignment with God's perfect will. (Though God continues to advance His Kingdom and bring about His perfect will through His permissive will. If God did not work through His permissive will, He would have to take us all out because we all rebel against God. We all sin against God.) **Did you know that? Do you see that?** The world is crazy.

- Donald Trump is leading in republican presidential polls.
- Recently, Jimmy Fallon wept over the death of Cecil the Lion, while those in Zimbabwe wonder who in the west weeps when lions like Cecil eat Zimbabweans.
- Racism, Genocide, Nuclear Bombs, Sexual Confusion
- Two sons in Broken Arrow ruthlessly murdered several in their family.
- 230 Assyrian Christians have been kidnapped by ISIS.

But first, let's frame life in the context of the gospel by saying clearly and emphatically:

**"WE MUST HAVE STRONG BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SIN AND GRACE IN A VERY CONFUSING, UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD WITH A LOT OF INJUSTICE."**

On Twitter, Southern Seminary Professor Eric Johnson reminded me this week: "How quickly we forget that Christ's church is a church of sinners, albeit saved sinners being saved." We must always start here: With the guilt-freeing joy and grace-producing humility of being ransomed from slavery to sin, because Jesus died in the place of sinners, of which we all are. And he died for every kind of sin, and rose again from the grave, overcoming sin and death. We never outgrow the gospel! EVER! If we don't start here and we forget that we are sinners being saved by grace, we will be consumed by at least one of two forces of darkness. Two gospel-less ditches:

1. **We will be consumed by guilt** and we will live in the shadows, away from a nourishing Christian Community, and we will not bear the fruit of amazing grace. Don't let someone else condemn you for a sin or sins that Jesus has acquitted you of by grace through repentance and faith. And don't do it to yourself either! We are often our own worst enemy.
2. **We will be consumed by self-righteousness.** We will only condemn the faults and sins we see in others – and ourselves. We must be more than against people and their sin, we must be willing to do what Jesus did for us

– get messy, serve and sacrifice – that's how you help sinning, dying and hurting people!

So I plead with you, Christian, let God's grace humble you and give confidence to propel you to hate what is evil and cling to what is good (Rom. 12:9), namely, the gospel and all its applications. I plead with you, not-yet-surrendered person, surrender to God by trusting all of you, to all of Him!

God's grace through Christ alone is more than enough for every person's worst nightmare sin in an upside-down world.

**"BECAUSE WE HAVE A STRONG BIBLICAL THEOLOGY, WE MUST HAVE AN UNRELENTING MORAL COURAGE TO SEE AND IDENTIFY INJUSTICE AND SIN."**

In April 1945, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the allies found the Nazi Concentration Camps, and General Eisenhower was said to have gone into every corner of the camp to witness the horror of these camps first-hand. He did this because he did not want anyone to be able to say that the camps were fabricated or embellished as anti-Nazi propaganda for greater punishment. The horror of the camp was so bad that General George S. Patton, a seem-

## DID YOU KNOW?

Rose Day, a pro-life rally held at the State Capitol, celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2016.

ingly fearless leader, would not go into a room where forty bodies were found because it made him physically want to throw-up. Eisenhower, filled with moral outrage, made the German townspeople of surrounding towns, walk through and see what they were an accomplice to. This was an incredible act of moral courage. He did it because, with over six million dead, some people knew and supported it, some people knew and suppressed it and some denied it was happening and maybe a few just didn't know. But he wanted them to see what they had been a part of as a country.

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So I want to walk you through the present-day concentration camps of America – **because I fear some of you have not looked to see.** A recent poll revealed that **70%** of Americans have heard nothing or little about the PP videos. **I beg you, don't look away! Hang with me even if it hurts.**

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Here is a synopsis of what we have seen and learned in recent days regarding the health provider, Planned Parenthood:

- On July 14th, the Center for Medical Progress, a Pro-Life Group, released an undercover sting video of a Planned Parenthood doctor.
- Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion in the U.S.
- They also receive over \$500 million of tax payers money, which is approximately \$1.4 million a day.
- **Video 1.** Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Senior Director of Medical Services, while eating salad and sipping wine, casually discusses the pricing of various body parts as specimens to be sold as medical research. She speaks of crushing strategically so as to not damage desirable body parts.
- The callous and nonchalant tone of this doctor was later apologized for, but not the actual act of destroying life.
- **Video 2.** Dr. Mary Gatter, President of Planned Parenthood Medical Directors talks about “less crunchy” techniques to get “whole specimens,” and discusses haggling over the price of fetal tissue sales because she wants “a Lamborghini.”
- **Video 3.** A doctor who is a vice-president and medical director of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains in Denver is sorting through fetal tissue and discussing how much (money) they “can get out of it.”
- **Video 4.** The same doctor from video number three is seen brainstorming ways to keep from crushing organ specimens. At the end it shows them picking through a “so-called specimen” when one of the technicians says, “Another boy!”
- **Video 5.** Released Tuesday, August 4th, video shows Director of Research for Planned Parenthood, Gulf Coast, Melissa Farrell, discussing fully intact aborted specimens and how they have an edge over other Planned Parenthood providers because they have been doing it for years and comments “this is just a

matter of line items.” At the end they discuss that they are looking at a 20-week-old that turns out to be twins.

The release of the first video had a lot of back and forth in the media and here is some of what you will hear to justify what is happening. I want you to be aware and conversant with common ways people rationalize the destruction of babies:

“It’s not a child, it’s a clump of cells.” Or, “It is not a person.”

**“WE MUST ALSO HAVE A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY THAT GOVERNS ALL OF LIFE – BOTH THINKING AND LIVING. (A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW)”**

Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:7 teaches us that God is the creator of humankind and humans are special because they are created in the image of God. We are image-bearers. We are viceroys.

Ps. 139:13-16 **What God has knit together in the womb, let no man or woman crush or terminate!** God determines personhood and every conceived child is an intricately crafted miracle of God’s creative wisdom. To the Christian, God determines personhood, not a judge or congress-person. I heard one congresswoman say the other day that a fetus is not a person **until they leave the hospital.** Do you believe that God is creator of everyone and everything? Do you believe God is all-knowing? Do you believe God is sovereign? **Then remember the words of Dr. Seuss: “A person’s a person no matter how small!” Because God said so!** We must have a biblical theology of life.

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Some will say this is just a political issue or a wedge issue in an election year. No, this isn’t just a political issue, it is a humanitarian issue.

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Planned Parenthood defenders argue that Planned Parenthood does so much more than abortion. Last year PP performed 327,000 abortions and gave 2,197 adoption referrals. That’s a ratio of **140:1. That about says it all.**

Some argue that this is a “war on women” and is an attack on women’s health. By the way, there are less than 700 PP clinics in the U.S. and over 9,000 Community Health Centers that do all that PP does, except abortion. For instance, PP does no in-house mammograms. Zero! Despite giving misleading information that they do.

Some declare you can’t impose morality and that is what you are doing when you try to stop abortion through politics by changing laws. Douglas Wilson, author and pastor of Christ Church in Moscow, Idaho says, **“Every system of law is a codified expression of morality. The only choice we have is what kind of morality will be imposed, not whether a morality will be imposed. You may be nervous about us imposing our morality on Planned Parenthood? But the**

only alternative is to allow Planned Parenthood to continue imposing their morality on the children... We are proposing a system of morality that respects all human life instead of despising it. That should not be considered as threatening. Respect for life is nothing to be afraid of."

And another ridiculous talking point: "These fetuses are not babies, children or persons, they are just clumps of cells." To which I would respond: "That's weird, because they strangely have limbs and organs that are used for 'human research.'" In other words, Planned Parenthood wants to use these "clumps of cells" for human research, but they tell us they are not human – I am confused! Are they human, or aren't they?

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You may think it inappropriate what I have done this morning in exposing you to this – **there are little children in the room – YES!** You may say, I don't need to see that or hear that – it's repulsive and sickening. YES!

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If we wish to help people and glorify God, we can't ignore what is in front of us and we must be conversant with the talking points. We can't turn a blind eye. We must see the horror of sin in a broken world – for if you don't, how will you know what to do to help? And how will you see your need of prayer for the work of saving and healing broken people?

**"WE CAN NO LONGER DENY WE ARE KILLING HUMAN BEINGS. SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS ITSELF EVIL. GOD WILL NOT HOLD US GUILTYLESS." CHRISTIAN WRITER AND CULTURAL COMMENTATOR, ERIC METAXAS**

Pastor Ryan wrote an honest blog on this. Here is my oversimplified summary: "I don't want to look. I want to escape." Learn the lesson of 1940s Germany! **Comfort must not be the God of your life.** If Eisenhower held the German people accountable, how much more will the Holy God of everyone and everything hold us accountable? Abortion is the premature destruction of a baby that damages and hurts mothers and fathers and siblings and it grieves God – should it not grieve us? Abortion is the premature destruction of a baby that damages and hurts mothers and fathers and siblings and it grieves God – will we not act? Will we stand and watch the injustice?

**"We must obey the call of Christ to relentlessly and sacrificially love others with word and deed!"**

James 4:17 – "To the one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."

## *What might we do?*

### **SOME OF US ARE OVERWHELMED WITH WHAT TO DO, SO WE DON'T DO ANYTHING!**

- Watch at least one of the recently released Planned Parenthood videos. Make yourself look.
- Women and Men Get Help. Get out from under the guilt and use your forgiveness to help others. Christian Hip-Hop Artist, Lecrae, shared about how he began to heal when he confessed to taking a former girlfriend to get an abortion.
- Let's be courageously honest about what abortion is and know why it is loving to do so. Imagine a mother and father at home, playing on the floor with their little children, and these little gifts from God bring unspeakable joy – most of the time. But the joy before them, also forces the past upon them, because in the past a child was aborted. Would it not be right to be honest about what abortion is in order to rescue people from a life-time of pain?
- Let's be willing to be seen as uncouth for the sake of the truth. Someone recently said, "The church will not survive without a willingness to be uncouth. In the end, truth is an uncivil thing."
  - Let's be respectfully brave on social media by posting honest articles that inform, help and heal.
  - Let's engage people with the bottom line.
  - Let's be honest with our children. Let's be brave about the consequences of sin.
  - Let's hold forth the gospel of Jesus – by which God acquits of all sin.
- Let's support Crisis Pregnancy Centers. I know many of you do. You are thinking, I just heard this sermon at the fundraising banquet last spring. Let's volunteer. Let's give financially. Let's give diapers.
- Let's adopt and foster.
- Let's be politically active – without making elections and politicians saviors. Call your local state and national officials and let them know we don't want our tax dollars going toward abortion providers and we want more money toward Health Centers that help women, fathers and children without providing abortion.

**WE MUST BE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN WHAT WE ARE AGAINST,  
WE MUST BE KNOWN WHAT WE ARE FOR. WE MUST BE BOTH!**



In 1970, when New York legalized abortion, Bernard Nathanson became the director of the largest freestanding abortion clinic in the world where he oversaw more than 75,000 abortions and performed almost 5,000, including one on his own child. In his autobiography, he confessed he felt nothing except a sense of accomplishment, after aborting his own child – after all, it was just a clump of cells. But ultrasound changed that, and he became a pro-life Jewish atheist for a time, but through the impact of his Christian pro-life friends, he eventually became a disciple of Christ.

With Nathanson in mind, his friend Robert George wrote: “We in the pro-life movement have no enemies to destroy. Our weapons are chaste weapons of the spirit: *truth and love*. Our task is less to defeat our opponents than to win them to the cause of life. To be sure, we must oppose the culture and politics of death resolutely and with a determination to win. But there is no one—no one—whose heart is so hard that he or she cannot be won over. Let us not lose faith in the power of our weapons to transform even the most resolute abortion advocates.”

No one is too far gone to be rescued by the grace of God. And no one who claims Christ should turn a blind eye.

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**“YOU MAY CHOOSE TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY,  
BUT YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN SAY YOU DID NOT KNOW.”**

**WILLIAM WILBERFORCE**

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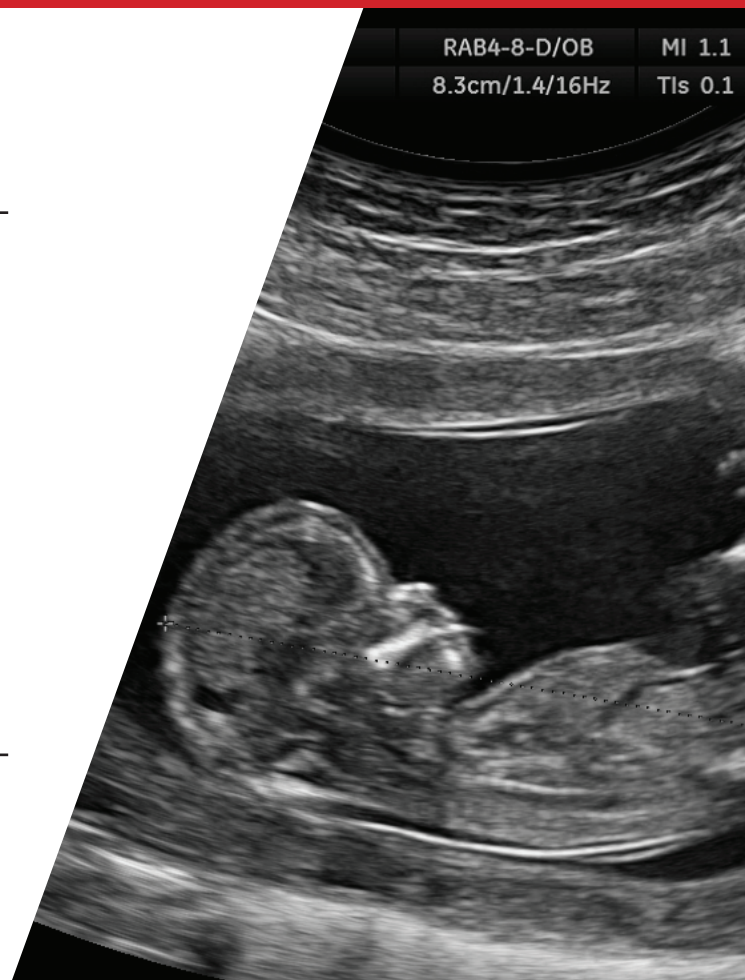
## **DID YOU KNOW?**

President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation on January 16, 1984, designating **Sunday, Jan. 22, 1984** as National **Sanctity of Human Life** Day, noting that it was the 11th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is nationally recognized on the third Sunday every January.

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**DOING NOTHING IS**  
*Doing Something*  
**AND IT IS THE**  
*Worst Something*  
**WE CAN DO.**

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# THE VOICE OF THE *Unborn*

## Psalm 35



### SERMON FROM MICHAEL TAYLOR

#### PERSONAL INTRODUCTION – (Could be read as a story)

Life in every form, at any point, has a unique dignity attached to it that is endowed by our Creator. No matter the age, no matter how marred by the effects of sin in this world, human beings are created in the image of God. Caroline and I brought our third child into this world on August 5th. But I shudder as I write this to think of the world that we are bringing him into. I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that there are people in this world who would have seen the 20 week sonogram of my son, the sonogram that revealed an imperfection, a cleft, in my son's lip and would have terminated his life. I shudder to think about the countless number of children who are aborted and abandoned because of some type of "imperfection." I shudder as I hear and read the reports about Planned Parenthood over the last few months. I shudder to think that life can be treated so insignificantly and carelessly in pursuit of the almighty dollar and "human choice."

Caroline and I watched our son on the sonogram machine with joy and trepidation over the 20 weeks leading up to his birth. We watched our son grow. We watched him move. We watched him practice breathing. We listened to his heartbeat. The miracle of technology let us see the smallest details of his face before he was born. And we waited with a deep sense of hope and joy over the days leading up to his birth. On August 5th we waited for the doctor to bring our son into this world. And when he came, we noticed his lip, but that passed quickly. We found ourselves celebrating that new birth. And in those moments we were able to worship the God who gave him life.

Church, the same God who granted life and breath to my son, who imparts his image to every human he creates, is still breathing life. He breathes it to new babies that might be marred by the sin of this world and he will give breath and life to new creations that are definitely marred by the sin of this world. Through the blood of Christ new life will come to all who believe. No evil decisions in this world, no human activity, however grotesque, will defeat the life giving blood of Jesus.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. (Genesis 1:27 ESV)

Praise to the Father above who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (Romans 4:17 ESV)

The issue of the sanctity of life is very real in my life in these days. Not just because of the fact that my wife is pregnant and I have a newborn child. The last few weeks and months have exposed again the absolute horror that is the abortion industry. News organizations have exposed the atrocities of the Planned Parenthood organization and for maybe the first time the world is really being exposed to what is happening behind their doors.

#### TODAY I WANT TO ALLOW THE UNBORN TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOU....

I want you to hear the voice of the unborn, I want you to hear them cry out about the injustice that is facing them. I want you to hear them cry out to you...

Today, I want you to hear the words of David in Psalm 35 as the pleading cry of the one facing persecution and suffering. I want you to hear these words as the cry of the unborn child.

Read these words of David with me and hear the voice of the unborn.

[1] Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me! [2] Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help! [3] Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!"

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015 Oklahoma ranked fourth on the "Life List," an index that rates states based on the legislative advances that protect unborn life.

Do you hear it? Do you hear the voice of the unborn? It is crying out with David that...

## 1. GOD HAS A DEEP CARE AND CONCERN FOR US. 1-3

David speaks to God from a deep sense of God's care and concern for him. He asks God with confidence to take his side in this fight and to re-assure his soul of God's care and concern for him. He asks God to fight for him. He knows that God will fight for those whom He cares for.

The unborn child has the same cry. God cares deeply about His children from the moment of conception, Scripture tells us that He knows us and has a deep concern for our life.

*[13] For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. [14] I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. [15] My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:13-16 ESV)*

Church, Jesus was once an unborn child.

The Scriptures and the unborn cry to you. We have been created and formed by God in the womb of our mother, He has a deep concern and care for us. It was for us that Christ died the same as you.

You teach your children songs, they apply to us as well.

*Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world, Red and yellow, black and white they're all precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world*

*Jesus cares for all the children, All the children of the world, Red and yellow, black and white, They're all precious in His sight, Jesus cares for all the children of the world*

*Jesus came to save the children, All the children of the world, Red and yellow, black and white, they're all precious in His sight, Jesus came to save the children of the world*

God cares deeply for us. Even when no one else does, God has a deep care and concern for us.

Do you hear them? Continue to listen for their voice as we continue in the text.

*[4] Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me! [5] Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away! [6] Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them! [7] For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life. [8] Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction! (Psalm 35:4-8 ESV)*

The unborn cry out again along with David.

## 2. GOD HAS A DEEP HATRED AND WRATH FOR THOSE WHO DO EVIL TO US. 4-8

David prayed for his opponents to be put to shame and dishonor, he prayed that they may be driven back and for God to take vengeance upon those who bring violence against the servant of God. He prays for them to face destruction. His opponents, notice this, who had no cause, had set their faces against him. And he asks God to destroy them.

Now is it ok to pray this type of prayer? And I say absolutely. Here are a couple of reasons from the ESV Study Bible as to why this prayer is not just ok but encouraged.

*First of all, it is realistic; God's protection of the faithful means that He must thwart the schemes of those who would harm them. Second, it is just, since the pursuers devise evil (v. 4), and without cause they hid their net for me (v. 7). Third, it takes God at His word. Finally, from all of this it is plain that the prayer is not a vindictive response to personal injury but an appeal based on faith.*

David understood that God had a deep concern for his life and for his soul and has a deep willingness to protect his people. Out of this knowledge comes his cry for God to protect his people through action against those who hate and plot against his people.

The unborn cry out with David for those who work evil against them to be exposed in the light of what they are doing. And let the stark reality be stated that God cannot and will not tolerate this type of behavior toward His creation. Psalm 5 makes that very clear.

*[4] For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. [5] The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. [6] You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. (Psalm 5:4-6 ESV)*

God will not stand for His creation to be marred. He will execute judgment against those who perpetrate these crimes against His children.

But we must take a moment here and let the weight of God's wrath against all who would engage in these atrocities sink in. Because it is against this backdrop that the forgiveness of the Gospel stands so clearly.

*For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, (Romans 3:22-24 ESV)*

Even those who stand as enemies of Christ and enemies of the unborn can find grace in the blood of the cross.

But let us return to the words of David and hear the unborn continue to cry out. For these next few cries are some of the most plaintiff that they make.

*[10] All my bones shall say, "O LORD, who is like you, delivering*

*the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?"*

Yes, David is confident in the Lord but look at his view of himself and that is where we hear the unborn cry out...

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### 3. WE ARE WEAK AND POWERLESS. 10

David describes himself as a poor and weak man, facing a strong man. He portrays himself as a needy man facing the one who would rob him of anything that he might possess, even if it is all he has.

I can think of nothing more poor and needy in all of God's creation than a child in the womb, they are completely reliant on another to provide everything that they need.

The idea that the unborn are weak and powerless is not a surprise. Its truth is self-evident, but the problem is that their weakness and powerless state gives them no voice. Not only can they not protect themselves, but they also cannot speak for themselves and cannot voice the inhuman atrocities that are enacted upon their frail and tiny bodies at the hands of men and women who would lay claim to the title of doctor. They cry out, but their cry is unheard and unanswered for they have no voice.

David continues this same idea in V17 & 19-21

*[17] How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their destruction, my precious life from the lions! [19] Let not those rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, and let not those wink the eye who hate me without cause. [20] For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit. [21] They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!" (Psalm 35:17-21 ESV)*

David maintains his innocence and the unborn cry out along with him.

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### 4. WE ARE INNOCENT AND OPPOSED VIOLENTLY. 17, 19-21

Hear David's words, "Rescue my precious life from the lions. Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my foes, those who wink their eye and hate me without cause, they devise words of deceit against those who are quiet. They speak as though they have caught me."

David is not laying a claim to perfection, but in this case he says with the uprightness of a man after God's own heart that he has done no wrong in this matter. These people assault him and plan against the innocent.

This truth can be multiplied for the unborn. What wrong has a child done to be crushed, dismembered and sold to the highest bidder like the pieces of a car?

This is one reason that the abortion industry has been likened to the slave trade and why its end must come. There is nothing human about this process. It strips the dignity of the innocent

and produces a culture where a body made in the image of God is dismissed, massacred, and misused for any number of reasons.

But Church, have hope, for the unborn have a hope of which those who assault their small bodies do not know. David says in V22...

*[22] You have seen, O LORD; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me! [23] Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord! [24] Vindicate me, O LORD, my God, according to your righteousness, and let them not rejoice over me! [25] Let them not say in their hearts, "Aha, our heart's desire!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up." [26] Let them be put to shame and disappointed altogether who rejoice at my calamity! Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor who magnify themselves against me! (Psalm 35:21-26 ESV)*

The unborn cry out with David in the midst of undeserved persecution, We have hope for...

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### 5. GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US AND THEM. 22-26

Hear their words: You have seen. Awake and rouse yourself. Vindicate me. Let them not rejoice. Let them be put to shame. Let them be clothed with shame.

There are two parts of this cry. The first deals with deliverance and the second with justice. And we must understand who is in charge of both.

David was not concerned with seeking vengeance himself; his concern was for God's presence and protection over his life.

God will take care of the unborn! Those lives that existed and then were aborted do not fade from the memory of God. As one pastor said,

*God himself has an absolute right to give life and take it. And we may be sure that if he takes the little ones, he deals with them according to what they could know (Romans 1:18-20). I believe they are saved. But we today have no right to take their lives. In relation to us, they are innocent. And we are guilty if we take their life. – John Piper sermon 1/27/08*

God will take care of the unborn, and He will also deal with the guilty because of their sin.

This is so important for us to hear. Our ultimate aim is not the prosecution and persecution of those who afflict the unborn. Our ultimate aim is for the protection of the unborn.

But know and remember, God will take care of the unborn more than we ever could or would...

As we continue though notice that David does acknowledge that he is not alone in this struggle.

*[27] Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the LORD, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" (Psalm 35:27 ESV)*

The key phrase here is right at the beginning. "Let those who



delight in my righteousness” let those people who are on my side, shout for joy in worship to our God and praise our God who cares for his servant.

I believe David and the unborn would affirm this morning that...

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## 6. GOD DELIGHTS IN THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR US. 27

David calls for those who are with him to delight themselves in his standing before God. To essentially delight themselves in the God who will rescue David.

There is a truth at work here that I believe bears much truth for us.

God delights in us, when we delight ourselves in him.

Psalm 147:11 makes this abundantly clear...

*[11] but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.*

David was not alone in his struggle and the unborn are not alone in their struggle.

There are those among us who God has worked in their hearts to face this issue head-on and actively work towards its end and I praise God for you. I also pray that God would not let us, his people, turn a blind eye toward this issue. Children are being massacred. Let me give you some numbers.

*In 2011, the latest year for which statistics are available, 1.06 million abortions were performed, down 13 percent from 1.21 million in 2008. From 1973 through 2011, nearly 53 million abortions have been performed in the United States. - See more at: <http://erlc.com/issues/quick-facts/life2/>*

Yes, the number is dwindling and praise God for that, but the issue is still pressing. Why is this so pressing you ask? Let me point you to three more verses in this Psalm.

*[9] Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD, exulting in His salvation. (Psalm 35:9 ESV)*

*[18] I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you.*

*[28] Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long. (Psalm 35:28 ESV)*

David sees his deliverance coming and looks forward to its arrival. And this is where the cry of the unborn must differ from David slightly. Whereas David looks forward to his deliverance, the unborn cry out....

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## 7. GIVE US A CHANCE TO GLORIFY THE LORD. 9, 18, 28

In this day there is no guarantee that the unborn will even be given a chance to worship the Lord. Oh, I have complete confidence that they will worship the Lord in the splendor of His glory and holiness in the moment after they are removed from this life.

But let us advocate for them so that their voices may be heard in this life, so that their cry from the womb is not unheard.

This is a crisis that we cannot escape and cannot pass on to another generation.

I close with a quote from Dr. Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC.

*The children torn apart in abortion facilities have no names, but God knows their names. They have no resting places but Jesus grants them rest. If we are called into the kingdom of a just Messiah, one who welcomes children, we should stand up and speak up for the vulnerable ones He loves. These children may be just another line item in the abortion industry's profit ledger, but they share the humanity of our Lord Jesus—and we must plead for justice for them.*

*It is time for the reborn to stand up for the unborn. (Russ Moore "Planned Parenthood and the Atrocity of Corpse Selling")*

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WOULD YOU *Pray* WITH ME  
THIS MORNING?

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# FOR THE LOVE OF *Life*

John 10:10

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## SERMON FROM RICK FRIE

### INTRODUCTION:

Jesus says in John 10:10, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

I believe that verse summarizes the very heart of God and why He so values life. God is into creating, sustaining and redeeming life. Everything God has to do in human history is about life. Everything He wants to do in the future is about life. He sent His Son, Jesus, so we might have eternal life. And I will tell you He has not advocated His responsibility as the Creator and Sustainer of life to a matter of personal human choice and preference. And God values every life, which is why I want to start with the lives of those who made or encouraged the decision for an abortion. God values your life.

### I. WHAT IF YOU'VE HAD AN ABORTION?

- **Forgiveness and Grace**

I JOHN 2 SAYS, *"IF ANY MAN SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUS ONE."*

Notice he did not name the sin, He just said "sin." Whether it is lying or cheating or having an abortion, *"If any one sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous one."* He is the satisfaction, propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but the sins of the whole world.

Paul says, *"There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."*

Remember, Jesus is always about restoration and forgiveness. He says "Repent." In Psalm 103:12 we read, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us."*

We serve a God of redemption and a God of hope and a God of cleansing. If this is where you've been, you don't have to suffer in silence. Maybe you need to tell your story to someone who loves you and who cares for you and will help you walk with the Lord and experience His cleansing. Know this, as a follower of Christ, as long as there is breath, there is hope and there is help!

**AND AS MUCH AS HE VALUES YOUR LIFE, HE VALUES THE LIFE OF THE UNBORN.**

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**Abortion** is a **moral** issue.

There are those today who want you to believe it is a social issue, but it's not. It is sin and it is wrong. Abortion is a moral issue; I want you to notice these statistics.

- In 2011, 1.06 million abortions were performed yearly in the U.S. I want you to take a moment and let that sink in. 1.06 million babies were aborted just here in the United States.
- That is an average of 2877 abortions every day, or almost 120 every hour.
- The U.S. has one of the highest abortions rates among developed nations.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Annual abortions reported in Oklahoma have dropped from more than 12,000 in 1985 to less than 5,000 in 2013.

So why are **children** being **aborted**?

- Of the reasons given, 50% have said it was because they did not want to be a single parent. 66% said they could not afford a child. And 75% said that a child would interfere with their life.
- Whether we want to admit it or not, abortion is a reflection on our view of life. We are increasingly devaluing life in this country.
- So what does the Bible have to say about this? The Bible is not silent about abortion, it speaks directly and clearly to this issue.

## II. WHY SHOULD WE LOVE LIFE?

- Because God is the **creator** of life.

Psalm 100:3 says, ***“Know that the LORD, He is God. It is He who has made us and not we ourselves.”***

You and I have no control over our lives, we didn’t make ourselves. ***The Lord, He is God, it is He who has made us and not we ourselves.*** We are to value and love life because God is the creator of life.

- The **image** of God is **stamped** on every child.

Now get this, the image of God is stamped on every child at the moment of conception and not when the child is born. ***Genesis 1:27 says, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them.”***

This implies purpose and destiny, every child is valuable, every child has meaning.

## III. WHO CONTROLS LIFE AND DEATH?

First let me say, you will not find a specific verse in the Bible that says life begins at conception. But listen to Psalm 139:13-16, ***“For you formed my inward parts. You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works. My soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.”***

Verse 16 - ***“Your eyes saw my unformed substance. In your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them.”***

In this passage, God is at the very beginning. Listen, God has just as much love for a one-day old embryo, which really is a life, as He does for a 30-year-old. And don’t ever forget Jesus died for the life in the womb, and He died for those of us who are outside the womb.

## IV. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT TAKING LIFE BEFORE BIRTH?

In Exodus 21:22-25 God says, ***“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm; the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman’s husband shall impose on him and he shall pay as the judges determine.”***

Verse 23 says, ***“But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”***

How much clearer can it be? We are not permitted to hurt or harm the unborn. I believe the Bible gives us God’s absolute moral standards, which apply to every culture and every age.

We have seen that human life is unique in that God created us in His image. The Bible forbids us from shedding innocent blood. Listen, to view babies as inconvenient to the point of killing them is to violate Jesus’ view and the love of children.

Since we can see God values life differently than our cultures does, we must value life as He does.

Church, we need to realize one day we will stand before God and give an account. Do you want to stand finally before God and be challenged by the charge that you chose to reject the One who is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the One in whom dwells all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the One who spells out God to us in crystal clear terms, the One in whom we live and move and have our very being?

To think we rejected Him in favor of our own weak ideas and strong opinions. How can we win by playing life’s game like that?

But listen, Jesus waits in the winner’s circle with open arms to greet you at the end of the race, if you will take the step of faith and receive and trust Him today as your personal Lord and Savior.

- **WHY NOT YOU?**
- **WHY NOT NOW?**
- **WHY NOT TODAY?**



# EVERY LIFE MATTERS TO *God*

## *Psalms 139*

### SERMON FROM JAMES BIESIADECKI

When you look at a baby, it becomes increasingly difficult to understand the statistics...

- **3 weeks** - The heart begins beating
  - **6 weeks** - The diaphragm is formed; the heart and its four chambers are fully formed. The first brain waves are detected.
  - **7 weeks** - Hands, feet, arms, legs, and all major organs are detectable. At seven weeks, it is possible for a baby to get the hiccups. Isn't that the sweetest thing in the world?
  - **8 Weeks** - Most major body systems are in place. The brain is highly complex and right or left-handed dominance is detectable.
  - **9 weeks** - The baby sucks its thumb
  - **10 weeks** - The baby has fingerprints. The very thing that distinguishes one human being from another human being is detectable at 10 weeks.
  - **12 weeks** - The baby has taste buds. Females exhibit rapid jaw movements that surpass their male counterparts. You know what, that never stops either. Just joking!!
- 52% OF ALL ABORTIONS TERMINATE THE LIFE OF THE CHILD BY THIS TIME...**

Since 1973, the entire population of Oklahoma would be aborted 16 times! Yet, if you crack the egg of a bald eagle in the US, according to federal law, you will spend 1-2 years in prison.

Carly Fiorina was right when she spoke to this in the Republican Presidential debates, "this is more than a political issue, it is about the character of our nation," and we should take it a step further. It is about honoring the Creator of the universe—who is the giver of life, and to whom we will one day give an account.

We are not of this world. We do not ultimately answer to the rulers of the world, we ultimately answer to the King of kings, and He determines how we look at the issues of our culture.

Now, we don't know exactly when David wrote it, but there might be a few occasions to consider: When He said, "How precious are your thoughts to me oh God, How great are the sum of them." Might be one. David had united the kingdom, defeated all the enemies, and had settled down as king of a now peaceful nation. But the God who had delivered him all these years was still in a ragged old tent... David was inspired to build a temple to match the greatness of God – And when God gave the go-ahead, David Responds: 1 Chronicles 17:16–17 (ESV) <sup>16</sup>Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? Or, 2 Samuel 7:18, 1 Chronicles 17:16

It must be what anyone feels when they contemplate on the reality of this text. Who am I that God would think of me??? You see, in God's Kingdom--every life matters to Him.

It would drive him to say: Psalm 8:4 ...<sup>3</sup>When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; <sup>4</sup>What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

## DID YOU KNOW?

The first Oklahoma Baptist crisis pregnancy center opened in 1986.

Or: Psalm 144:3–4 (ESV) O LORD, what is man that you regard him, or the son of man that you think of him? Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

According to the standards of God's kingdom... we find value in human life that we see nowhere else. In God's Kingdom... Not only do black lives matter, every life matters...Red and yellow black and white, they are all precious in His sight.

Does your life matter? Psalm 139 responds with a resounding YES! The Psalm is divided into 4 stanzas of 6 verses each in our text. It is a combination hymn, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, meditation and prayer. Some form of the word "know" permeates the passage, occurring 6 times in vs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 14 and 23. King David gushes with the reality that God knows everything (vs. 1-6), that God is everywhere (vs. 7-12), that God can do anything (vs. 13-18) and that God deals with everyone. (vs. 19-24)

As a follower of Christ no longer of this world, I have to look at the issues of this world through the lens of God's perspective. Here, I come to realize every life matters, and therefore your life matters, and my life matters!

## SO, WHY DOES YOUR LIFE MATTER TO GOD? AND WHY SHOULD EVERY LIFE MATTER TO YOU?

### 1. BECAUSE EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS THE PRECIOUS WORK OF GOD.

Psalm 139:13–17 (ESV) For you **formed** my inward parts; you **knitted** me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am **fearfully and wonderfully made**. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was **being made** in secret, **intricately** woven in the depths of the earth. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Verse 13 begins with "For," indicating that this section (vv. 13–18) explains the preceding two sections. It implies more than just a process set in motion or principles that he designed, but a personal superintendence in that process.

Now, If you have the KJV you immediately run into trouble here... and you think those evil translations got it wrong... yours says "he possesses my reins."

- (1) *the kidneys, reins*. Exod. 29:13, 22; Job 16:13. "the fat of the kidneys of rams," Isa. 34:6; comp. Deu. 32:14. (in Medical terms, **re•nal** (rēn'əl), of or pertaining to the kidneys or the surrounding regions.) Etymology: Late Latin *rēnālis*, equivalent. to Latin *rēn(ēs)* kidneys 1650–60 MY inner parts, and not just those parts, but the implication was there was so much more. The Hebrews associated the seat of emotion with these inward parts, often referring to the heart.

- a. A good example of use, Psalm 7:9 (ESV) "Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous— **you who test the minds and hearts**, O righteous God!

- (2) The word "possessed" in Hebrew means that something was either purchased, or created, and therefore possessed. It is in your hands....and is yours to do with what you please... it is personally yours... which may be why there is such emphasis in the Hebrew on YOU. YOU, yes you...nobody else but you—God.
- (3) The context leans toward creating something... it is followed by the words "made," "knitted together," "...your works," "as I was formed,"
- (4) "knitted together," or woven together like a tapestry. It speaks to detailed tapestry done with contrasting colored thread.... a beautiful, and detailed kind of work...it implies meticulous skill...not only in my mothers womb, but tying it in some ways to creation itself... that the Lord saw me then!

When I was a kid, I remember going to stay with my dad for a few weeks, and in his garage, he asked what we wanted to make, and I wanted a plane, my brother wanted a boat... so Dad took some scrap wood, and he cut it on the scroll saw, and I remember watching with wonder at what he was doing... he cut out the wings... and the frame, ran it across a sander, and put the pieces together, he handed that plane to me, and I remember running through the yard with it...it was like he was a magician... my brother's boat had a paddle wheel that had a rubber band on it, and you wound it up... and let it go...I remember thinking my dad could do anything...

I treasured the works of his hands...David is saying every time you see a child in his mothers womb... stand back in wonder! The God of the universe is at work...

This is how Job understood it...Job 10:11–12 (ESV) You **clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews**. You have granted me life...

This is how the prophets understood it:

**Isaiah 49:5** -- "And now the LORD says-- **he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself**, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength--"

**Jeremiah 1:5** -- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

**Ecclesiastes 11:5** -- "As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things."



This is how God always looks at human life: (Just notice how he responds when life is not cherished..."*They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood...Therefore the Lord was angry with his people...He handed them over to the nations, and their foes ruled over them.*" -Psalm 106:38-41

What is my response to this? Praise! The response is to worship the Lord with all my heart, mind, soul and strength. I should respond in an explosion of praise:

- **Psalm 150:6** Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Every life matters to God... Why? Because you and I, and every other human being is the precious work of His hands... Every life matters to God.

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## 2. BECAUSE EVERY HUMAN LIFE HAS A DIVINE PURPOSE FROM GOD

- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Two ideas are involved in the psalmist's thought here: the wondrous way in which he was created, and the way God knew all that was going on in the process. He seems to emphasize the latter as he sees the hand of God ordering his entire life. This is actually another glimpse of the omniscience of God in the details of creation.

Unformed substance: **embryo, unfinished vessel**

According to Psalm 139:16, God beheld the psalmist's 'unformed **substance**,' his **golem**. This seems to refer to the embryonic stage of human existence, before the fetus is fully formed, when development is incomplete or **unfinished**. It comes from a word meaning to wrap up and implies an enfolded mass. In much later rabbinic writings, well into the Christian era, this word would regularly be used to refer to the first stage of human life after conception. Later still, it would also gain notoriety as the name of a creature of Jewish folklore who is made out of mud and brought to life. This legendary figure has clear links both with the **embryo** and with the story of Adam. Like Adam, the **golem** is made from dust of the earth and given life. Like the human **embryo**, the **golem** is unfinished, relatively shapeless. The **golem** of folklore is a slavish monster, not created by God but made by man. It is not, like the **embryo**, a human-being-in-the-making. It is rather a mindless imitation or caricature of human life. In modern times, the **golem** has also given its name to the deformed creature in *The Lord of the Rings* who was once human but whose humanity was distorted by the influence of a malign ring of power. Here, Gollum is not a

creature in the making but an unmade creature, not being-formed but de-formed.

He saw my embryo... This was not only reference to my formation at conception, but my conception and embryonic state is proof that before I was in the hands of God, I was in the mind of God when he formed man from the dust of the earth. This was all before my days...in the dust of the earth.

Isn't that what Eph 2:10 tells us? "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (ESV)

No life is an accident but part of the divine plan of God...formed for days, and purpose. My life actually matters to God!

One man described it this way... he talked about a sweater that hangs in his closet. He says he seldom wears it — it's too small, the sleeves are too short, the shoulders too tight, some of the buttons are missing, the thread is frazzled. Logically, he says, he should throw out that sweater since he has no use for it and will never wear it again. It simply takes up space in his closet.

That's what *logic* says. But *love* won't let him throw it out.

Why not? What's unusual about that sweater? To start with, it has no label, no tag telling you "Wash in cold water." That's because it wasn't made in a factory, produced on an assembly line as the product of a nameless employee earning a living. Rather, it was the creation of a devoted mother expressing her love — *his* mother. That sweater is unique, one of a kind, irreplaceable. Each strand was chosen with care, each thread selected with affection.

And so, even if that sweater has lost all of its use, it has lost none of its value. It is valuable not because of its function, but because of its MAKER. So is each life.

We are reminded of this in **Proverbs 19:21** "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

In **Proverbs 20:24** "A person's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?"

**Psalm 90:12** "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

**Psalm 39:4** "Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is."

What is our response? Praise! He had purpose for every life from before the world began...God has carefully designed every life with a functional purpose in mind, which he knew before the world began. In God's kingdom, every human life has purpose. Every life matters to God.



## SO, HOW DO WE RESPOND *Today...?*

1. We celebrate birth.
2. We protect the life of unborn children.
3. We pray for the end of the barbaric practice of murdering children in the womb.
4. And, yes, since we live in a democracy, we endeavor to do everything in our power as a people through political process to eradicate this menace from the face of the earth. Electing officials who will protect life.

Why, because Jesus died for every life... and every human being matters to Him. Even those who have encouraged and aborted these children.

There is good news for every Kermit Gosnell, who is responsible for the brutal murder of thousands of unborn babies, and a few young ladies who died at your hands: you can still be forgiven. If you encouraged a girlfriend, or a wife, or a daughter to end a life like this... you can still be forgiven. If you had an abortion, I have the best news that you might ever hear, the only remedy for the post traumatic stress that you suffer.... Forgiveness in Jesus Christ. He has died for your sins... and if you will repent and ask for His forgiveness, He will completely pardon you. He provided a remedy in the form of a baby... Christ the Lord!

THE GOD THAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE PLACE OF PHYSICAL BIRTH,  
IS THE SAME GOD WHO CAN MAKE YOU BORN AGAIN SPIRITUALLY.

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IN FACT, THAT IS THE PROMISE  
TO ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM.

*If you will leave your sin,*  
**AND COME TO ME,**  
*you are pardoned completely*  
*and absolutely,*  
**BUT YOU HAVE TO COME...**  
**KNOWING YOUR LIFE MATTERS TO HIM.**

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John 1:3

**"THROUGH HIM**  
*All things were made"*



## ERLC Resources

### WEBSITE LINKS

[www.bgco.org/erlc](http://www.bgco.org/erlc)

[www.erlc.com](http://www.erlc.com)

[www.bgco.org/roseyday](http://www.bgco.org/roseyday)

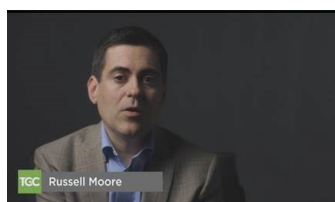
[www.Psalm139Project.org](http://www.Psalm139Project.org)

[www.baptistmessenger.com/pro-life-checkup/](http://www.baptistmessenger.com/pro-life-checkup/)

### VIDEO RESOURCES



Imago Dei:  
The Image of God



Have the Planned Parenthood  
Videos Changed Anything?



Psalm 139 Project:  
The Life of Julia



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday



[WWW.BGCO.ORG/ERLC](http://WWW.BGCO.ORG/ERLC)

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