

<http://www.prolifetoolkit.com/#script> http://www.nevadalife.org/life_is_precious.htm

A THEOLOGY OF LIFE

“The most merciful thing a large family can do for one of its infants is to kill it.”

-- Margaret Sanger, Planned Parenthood founder

Little wonder that this organization has become the world's largest provider of abortion. What we need is a theology of life – a philosophy based upon God – His person, His principles, His Word.

In their book, *Children at Risk* (Word, 1990, p. 145), James Dobson and Gary Bauer refer to an article by Dr. Leo Alexander in a 1949 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. As a consultant to the Sec. of War in the Nuremberg Trials, Dr. Alexander had unique access to accused Nazi war criminals in the medical community. He argued that so-called “compassionate killing” of the terminally ill inevitably set the stage for the Holocaust. He traced the trend that began small and grew through subtle shifts of attitude. It started with the acceptance of the attitude that there is such a thing as life not worthy to be lived. The early context of this attitude was with the critically and chronically ill. But the context evolved to include the socially unproductive, the ideologically unwanted, the racially unaccepted and finally all non-Germans. Dr. Alexander told a friend that trends in our country were “much like Germany in the ‘20s and ‘30s. The barriers against killing are coming down.”

“If a man loses reverence for any part of life, he will lose his reverence for all life.”

– Albert Schweitzer

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GOD CREATED LIFE.

The best place to begin with a theology of life is at the beginning. The Bible begins with the clear and concise statement that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Of His creation of man the Bible says

Gen 2:7 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.

No life exists apart from the divine power and will. Every breath we inhale, like the first one breathed into Adam's nostrils, is a gift from the Creator. Every beat of our heart, from the first one that occurred 18-25 days after we were conceived, is the result of the creative hand of Almighty God.

GOD KNEW AND LOVED YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

Ps 139:13-16

13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

Jer. 1:4,5a

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Isa 49:1, 5

The LORD called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me. And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant,

Biblical language portrays the unborn as a viable and real person.

Kimberly Williamson, daughter of Jerry and Nancy Rose and granddaughter of Donna Stanley, gave birth to a baby that was born several weeks prematurely. This baby weighed less than 2 lbs. at birth. Yet mother and baby are both home now and doing well. Try telling Jerry, Nancy, and Donna that this baby was not viable!

The Psalmist says God was busy knitting together every cell as He formed us in our mother's womb.

God's love for people precedes their actual birth. He knows us before we are known to our parents! Science has demonstrated that everything about our person is present in the DNA at the moment of conception.

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

Gen. 25:22-23a; Rom. 9:11-12 Jacob and Esau

Judges 13:3, 5 Samson

Gal 1:15-16 Paul -- But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

Job 3:3 Let the day perish on which I was to be born, And the night which said, 'A boy is conceived.'

Job 10:2, 8-9, 11-12 Job wrestled with the knowledge that God had a plan for him even when He was forming him in his mother's womb, yet brought him into this world of woe anyway.

God's plans are greater than man's limitations. He can accomplish His will despite human disabilities, diseases, etc. Such limitation is no defense for ending life that man determines to be useless or undignified.

Jeanne and Greg Krebs were told by their doctor in Canton, OH that the child Jeanne was carrying would probably have severe disabilities. He recommended that she consider an abortion. The couple looked at each other in stunned disbelief and responded, "That's not an option for us, doctor. We are Christians and believe that God has created all life with a purpose. We're committed to having this baby." Their son, Chris, was born with cerebral palsy and mental limitations. Greg says, "It hasn't always been easy. But there's a mixture of joy and heartbreak in raising any child; joy with the accomplishments, heartbreak with the setbacks . . . But we believe that God is doing the right thing all the time, even though the timing and circumstances don't always make sense to us. God has used our son to teach us so much about His Son, Jesus Christ, and His love and faithfulness in our lives." When Chris was seven years old, he went with Greg to pick up Jeanne from her work at the hospital. Jeanne was late, so Greg and Chris sat in one of the waiting

rooms outside her unit. In that same waiting room sat an older man, disheveled and smelly. Greg left Chris momentarily to step out to the nurse's station to see how much longer Jeanne would be. When he returned to the waiting room, the older dirty gentleman was sobbing and Chris was standing right in front of him. Greg approached the man to apologize for whatever Chris had said or done to offend him. The older man explained that Chris hadn't offended him at all, but had given him a hug – the first he had received in twenty years! It was then, Greg realized, that Chris had more Christ like love for that man than he did.

“A great poverty reigns in a country that allows taking the life of an unborn child – a child created in God's image, created to live and to love. His or her life is not for destroying but for living, despite the selfishness of those who fear that they lack the means to feed or educate one more child.” -- Mother Teresa

“You know, people worry all the time about innocent children being killed in wars, and they try to prevent this. But what hope is there in stopping it if mothers kill their own children? Every life is precious to God, whatever the circumstances. In Isaiah, chapter 43, verse 4, God says, ‘You are precious to me and I love you.’” -- Mother Teresa

ENDING LIFE IS TO DISREGARD GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN FOR LIFE.

When God creates or sustains a person's life, He does so for a purpose and with a purpose. God's sovereignty must be honored above man's understanding. To take a human life under the guise of “dignity” or any other justification is to circumvent God's eternal plan and to deny His sovereign authority and power. It displays lack of faith in God's love, power, ability, and wisdom. It is to question His mercy in allowing someone to be born whom He foreknew would face a challenge that some think warrants ending life.

“Every legislator, every doctor, and every citizen needs to recognize that the real issue is whether to affirm and protect the sanctity of all human life, or to embrace a social ethic where some human lives are valued and others are not. As a nation, we must choose between the sanctity of life ethic and the ‘quality of life’ ethic.”

-- Ronald Reagan, *Abortion & the Conscience of the Nation*

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government.” -- Thomas Jefferson

“Abraham Lincoln recognized that we could not survive as a free land when some men could decide that others were not fit to be free and should therefore be slaves. Likewise, we cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion or infanticide [*ed., euthanasia*]. . . There is no cause more important for preserving freedom than affirming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have any meaning.”

-- Ronald Reagan

GOD OWNS YOUR LIFE.

1 Cor 3:16-17;6:19-20

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from

God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body
“Life, especially human life, belongs to God. Whoever attacks human life, attacks
God’s very self.” -- Pope John Paul II
“My body, my choice.” N.O.W. (National Organization of Women) slogan

GOD EXPECTS US TO DEFEND THE DEFENSELESS.

Ps 82:3-4

Vindicate the weak and fatherless;
Do justice to the afflicted and destitute.
4 Rescue the weak and needy;
Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.

Prov 31:8-9

Open your mouth for the mute,
For the rights of all the unfortunate.
9 Open your mouth, judge righteously,
And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Prov 12:6

The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood,
But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

What you say and do does make a difference. Will you make a difference?

“Dante once said that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality.” -- John F. Kennedy

Norma McCorvey is a woman all of us know. Well we know about her. You recognize her as Jane Roe of the Roe v. Wade court case which resulted in the legalization of abortion in our country. At one time, she was among the crudest people you can imagine. She could outcuss and outdrink most sailors. But things began to change for her when the abortion clinic where she worked in Dallas, TX got new neighbors – Operation Rescue, the politically active and high-profile pro-life organization. At first there was constant conflict between the two offices, and police intervention was required almost every day. But a strange thing occurred as Norma began developing a relationship with some of the people from Operation Rescue. She was especially fond of the seven year old daughter of one Operation Rescue workers. The little girl, Emily, was constantly giving Norma hugs and affection. One day Norma explained to Emily, “I like kids and wouldn’t let anyone hurt little kids.” Emily responded, “Then why do you let them kill babies at the clinic?” Emily’s child-like innocence cut Norma’s heart. Eventually, Norma began to see that abortion wasn’t about extracting blobs of flesh, but that it was snuffing out life from little ones like Emily. Through the influence of this seven-year-old girl, Norma McCorvey has become a believer in Jesus Christ and a strong advocate in the pro-life movement. She says, “I’m 100% sold out to Jesus and 100% pro-life. No exceptions. No compromise.” If a seven-year-old girl can be used by God in such a dramatic manner, surely He can use you.

What can you do to make a difference?

- _ Visit a nursing home
- _ Visit elderly members of our congregation

- _ Volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center
- _ Participate in the Life Chain

The Life Chain prevented one abortion, according to a woman who is now an advocate for life. Scheduled to commit abortion on a Monday, she decided to find the clinic on Sunday afternoon when traffic was not so heavy. The silent testimony of the Life Chain caused her to reconsider her decision. She decided on Monday morning not to go through with the abortion.

CONCLUSION

God not only created the world and you in it, but He has provided the way by which rebellious and sinful mankind may be recreated. Jesus claimed Himself to be that way. God demonstrated His love for us by creating us, and again by His offer to recreate us. Before He ever created man, God ordained that His only Son would die at the hands of sinful man for the purpose of redeeming man. He did not die with dignity, but in the midst of great humiliation and pain. The physical pain was superceded by the spiritual pain of bearing the sin of all men. He did this because He loves you and has a purpose for you. That purpose includes eternal fellowship in the courts of heaven. But you must accept His atonement and adopt His purpose.