

MODULE #2

Sanctity of Human Life in Scripture

We believe that human life begins at conception. Every person, being created in the image and likeness of God Himself, is a unique, immeasurably precious person whose life deserves protection, care and respect. The biblical teachings regarding the sanctity of human life require Christians to actively resist the evils of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and other forms of violent injustice inflicted against the defenseless and innocent.

Man was created to know God and to resemble Him as our Heavenly Father. To this end we have been endowed with moral and spiritual capacities, creativity and aesthetic sensitivities. This image is not limited to some part of our being but what we are in our totality, including our physical lives.

As humans, our value or worth is not based on what we do, but on who we are before God. The continued sanctity of human life is due to the grace of God. Human nature, though fallen, is sacred because it continues in God's image.

The Sanctity of Unborn Human Life

God creates and fashions life in the womb: Genesis 29:31; Job 31:15; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5.

Conception marks the beginning of an individual's life: II Samuel 11:5; 1 Chronicles 7:23; Luke 1:36.

The unborn are treated as persons in the womb: Psalms 51:5, 58:3; Luke 1:41-44.

David considered God to be at work with him personally by his constant use of "I," "me," and "my": Psalms 139:13-16.

God's purpose for each is operative before birth: Isaiah 49; Jeremiah 1:5 (set apart for service); Luke 1:15 (filled with the Holy Spirit); Galatians 1:15 (consecrated).

The entity in the womb is considered a baby: Luke 1:41-44.

Pregnant women are with child: Luke 2:5.

The Greek for babe is *brephos* and is used interchangeably in the New Testament for both born and unborn. Unborn: Luke 1:41-44. Born: Luke 2:12-16; Luke 18:15(NKJV); II Timothy 3:15. In these passages there is no distinction made between born and unborn children.

It is unnatural not to love the life in one's womb: Isaiah 49:15.

The Incarnation demonstrates God's total identification with us, from conception to death. Unique as He was, Jesus Christ was made like us in every way: Hebrews 2:17; Luke 1:31.

Jesus was a person in the womb: John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:41-44; 2:21.

We do not have an unqualified "right" to our own bodies: I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 12:7-9.

As in all sin, God forgives those who have been involved in an abortion: I John 1:9

Jesus Christ expects His Church to walk as He walked. He was confronted by a plethora of desperate situations, yet not once did he solve the problem by eliminating the person, or by suggesting that s/he should not have been born.