

The Sanctity of Life

Life is the _____ of God, and because God gives it, life is precious! Today we're going to explore the sanctity of _____. James 1:17 says that God is the _____ of every good thing and every perfect thing. I'm grateful for the written word that _____ us all about God, and all He has done for us. His word teaches us, protects us from evil, and guides us to _____ life. What a blessing!

In 1970 a Texas woman became pregnant and decided to _____ the antiabortion legislation of her state. Using the pseudonym Jane Roe, she took Henry Wade, the Dallas district attorney, to _____. The case eventually went to the Supreme Court in January, 1973, and is now the renowned Roe vs. Wade case. The Supreme Court ruled 7 to 2 that the Texas _____ banning abortion was unconstitutional. Its _____ inhibited all regulation of abortion during the first three months of pregnancy, and during the second and third trimesters regulated it only in relation to the mother's physical or mental health. This ruling permitted abortion on _____ at every stage of pregnancy. In 2017, 862,300 babies were aborted. That's 2,362 per day, 98 per hour, and two since this program started.

Dealing with an _____ pregnancy is indeed complex and emotional. It has physical, social, medical, psychological, and _____ considerations. Sadly, many have chosen to _____ the pregnancy by removing the life within. They appeal to national law and to changes in culture, but we know that there is a _____ law and a greater power to which we must all give an account. So, we ask, "What principles can we find in the Bible? What does _____ say about life in the womb?"

Our reading is Psalm 139:13-16; David tells of his close relationship with God, even in the womb.

David recognized that God knew him and was making him even in the womb.

In the beginning, God made, _____ male and female in His own image and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God said, "'Let us make man in our image, in our _____, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created man in his _____ image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). We should note that of all His creatures God regarded _____ humans as made in His own image.

For this reason, God said, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God _____ man" (Genesis 9:6). God has a very high view of life and _____ the taking of human life because of our relationship to God. Psalm 8 reminds us that God is "_____ of man." Every person, male or female, young or old, handicapped or whole, mentally challenged or not, diseased or not, has a _____ life. In fact, Acts 17:28 says, "we are His (speaking of God) _____." Luke 3:38 calls Adam the "_____ of God." Hebrews 12:9 helps us to _____ our relationship with God. It says, "Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be _____ to the Father of spirits, and live?" Yes, God is our heavenly Father and He made the spirits that _____ within us.

The Scriptures also record how God _____ and cares for little children. Abortion proponents _____ that the taking of a preborn child's life is not wrong since the unborn do not measure up to the

Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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definition of a viable person. A person to them is “one who has good mental and physical _____ and the ability to socialize.” In their minds a _____ would not measure up. The Scriptures, however, view infants and children as a _____ from God. Psalm 127:3 says, “Behold, children are a _____ of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.” God provided laws to _____ unborn children. In Exodus 21:22-25 God penalizes those who would _____ a miscarriage. The life of the unborn would _____ for the life of the one who caused the miscarriage.

The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to refer to the unborn in Exodus is “yeled”, a word that “generally indicates _____ children, but may refer to teens or even young adults.” The Hebrews did not have or need a _____ word for unborn children. They were just _____ any other children, only younger. The Bible refers to born children and unborn children, but there is no such thing as a potential, incipient, or “almost” child.

Jesus also loved children and _____ them. Luke 18:15-16 says, “And they were bringing even their _____ to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them. But Jesus called for them, saying, ‘Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the _____ of God belongs to such as these.’” Jesus spoke of these little ones as _____ belonging to the kingdom of God. The Greek New Testament uses the word “brephos” to describe these _____ children. It is significant that the New Testament uses the same word to describe an _____ child as it uses to describe a little child, that’s the word “brephos.” The Bible used this word to speak of John the Baptist who _____ in his mother’s womb in Luke 1:41 and 44. This word “brephos” is also used to speak of _____ as a newborn baby in Luke 2:12 and 16. We speak of a woman having a baby _____ birth and we speak of that child as a baby _____ birth. The Scriptures use the same words in both the Old Testament and the New to _____ the unborn and a baby that has been born.

The Scriptures also speak of God’s _____ in what takes place in the womb. In Psalm 22:9-10 David says, “Yet You are He who brought me forth from the _____; You made me trust when upon my mother’s breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth (I was cast from birth); And You have been my God from my mother’s womb.” Samson told Delilah, “A razor has never come on my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother’s womb. If I am shaved, then my strength will leave me and I will become weak and become like any other man” (Judges 16:17). God said to Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I _____ you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). Paul proclaimed that God “set me _____ even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace” (Galatians 1:15). Yes, the Father of spirits takes life in the womb seriously and so should we.

David described God’s _____ in the womb in Psalm 139:13-16: “For You _____ my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are _____, I know that full well. My frame was not _____ from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your _____ saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book _____ one of them came to be.” We should never think God somehow doesn’t know what the unborn are or what they are to become.

To take a life is to _____ a person of his existence on earth; abortion ends the life that already exists and robs the life that is to be. When people decide for others who lives and who dies, they presume the _____ of God. Women must make most abortion decisions this day and time, and of course they’re making a very difficult decision during a difficult time, but no one knows what the _____ will hold. Who knows what the child will _____? We must not presume that we know. The Scriptures _____

of some ill-timed pregnancies. Both Sarah and Elizabeth were too _____ to have children without God's help. If they had not given _____ to these children, where would Isaac and John the Baptist be? If Jesse and his wife had thought _____ sons were enough, there would have been no David. If Deborah or Esther's parents had _____ boys and aborted them because they were girls, where would Israel be?

There have been more than **60 million abortions** since 1973! Were all those aborted babies unworthy of _____? Were there no scholars, no musicians, no scientists, no authors, no preachers, no leaders, and no doctors among them? Where would you be if your parents had some reason to abort you?

Abortion interferes with God's _____ in the making of a person. A fetus in a woman's body is not mere _____ or only the product of conception. Nobody mourns the _____ of tonsils, or an appendix, or a gallbladder. We may not like either the pain or the bills, but we do not need _____ from grief. When a woman has a miscarriage, we _____ for her loss and the unborn child. More than one in my _____ family has lost a child due to a miscarriage or to death shortly after birth. If this loss isn't a person, _____ would we mourn?

By the time a mother knows she's pregnant, an unborn baby has its _____ circulatory and nervous systems. Blood cells, kidney cells, and nerve cells are developing. By eight weeks, eyes and ears begin to _____. Arms and legs start to _____. The heart is beating, and _____ regularly streams through the main vessels. The brain continues to grow, and the lungs start to form. The baby is not some useless organ; this is the beginning of a unique _____.

Sometimes I hear mothers say, "It's my body, and I can do _____ I want with it." Technically speaking, the tissue of a fetus _____ from the mother's tissue, even though it is in her body. Genetically speaking, the baby and mother are clearly _____ identical in their DNA. Consider also that a mother is always _____. She is certainly different both biologically and genetically should the baby be a _____. Milk is the product only of a mother, but a fetus is the product of _____ the mother and the father. A product of _____ body resides in _____ body, and that creates the person. That's why we have paternity lawsuits. The new baby is the result of the _____ of two people. Women do not produce babies _____.

When someone won't admit abortion is wrong, she may say, "You can't legislate _____." I like how Martin Luther King responded to this _____ against legislating morals. He said, "We hear the familiar _____ that morals can't be legislated. This may be true, but _____ can be regulated. The _____ may not be able to make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me." Remember: man's legislation doesn't _____ God's morals.

Many women think aborting a baby will be the _____ to their problems, only to realize the abortion opens up a whole new stack of issues and problems. Having an abortion can _____ a person for life. One lady wrote in 1994: "That women undergoing abortion have no _____ what suffering they will encounter after the abortion, and daily for the _____ of their lives, when it suddenly dawns on them that they chose to extinguish a precious life. Twenty-three years ago (she said), as a frightened young girl, alone, seeing no way out, I opted for a _____ abortion that left me infertile to suffer an eternal hell on earth, constantly aching for a child of my own to nurture. And taking the life of an unborn child eats away at your soul continually, like a ravenous _____, causing one to pray for a quick demise. You will always _____ if the fetus was male or female, what he or she would look like. Yearly, you will mournfully _____ the day that your baby was taken from your body. If only

someone had mentioned _____ to me as a viable alternative to a temporary condition, my child would be alive today, perhaps making a difference in someone's life.”

According to a study published in 2011 by Britain’s Royal College of Psychiatrists, women who have abortions are 81 percent more likely to experience subsequent _____ health problems. The greatest increases were seen in relation to _____ behaviors and substance abuse. Their results came from 22 studies of nearly 900,000 women from six countries over a twelve year period. They found that women who delivered an unplanned pregnancy were significantly _____ likely to have mental health problems than similar women who aborted unplanned pregnancies. Women with a _____ of abortion were 55 percent more likely to have mental health problems than women who did not abort an unplanned pregnancy.

God desires that every unmarried man and woman remain sexually _____. A sexually pure person doesn’t have to _____ the challenge of an unwanted pregnancy. If you find yourself with an unwanted pregnancy, my heart goes out to you. I pray that you’ll not _____ an abortion as a way out. As a parent of four and the grandparent of twelve, I know the sacrifices and challenges of bringing children into this world. If you’re unable or unwilling to _____ a child, others will gladly adopt that child and can provide what’s needed. Choose life, give your child an opportunity to learn about God’s love, and allow some Christian family to make a home for your child. You’ll never _____ doing the right thing.

As a minister, I’ve known women who gave in to the temptation to abort their child as a _____ solution to a difficult circumstance. Once they realize what they did, some think they cannot _____ forgiveness. Listen to me. Yes, what you did was _____. You can’t change things, but there’s still _____. Christ sacrificed His _____ on the cross for you to give us hope. His blood is powerful enough to cleanse the _____ sins. If Jesus could forgive that blaspheming, violent, and murderous persecutor of the church, Saul of Tarsus, He can forgive you.

Paul wrote, “It’s a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to _____ sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found _____, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an _____ for those who would believe in Him for eternal life” (1 Timothy 1:15-16). God’s grace is _____ than our sins. His blood can _____ us clean! We can’t change the past, but God can _____ us and no longer hold us accountable for our sins.

Put your trust in Christ Jesus! Repent and turn away from that old sin and focus on serving the Lord. When we humble ourselves and come lovingly and penitently to the Lord, confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and are baptized, God washes away our sins, and in baptism it takes place with the blood of Jesus. Ananias told Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” By being born of water and the spirit, you can be born again! The old person of sin will have died; it was crucified with Christ and you are free from sin. That takes place in baptism (Romans 6:3-7). God can forgive you.