

The Sacredness of Life

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Before his serious heart-related issues, my oldest son, Jeremy, enjoyed climbing mountains. He climbed Mount Rainier, Mount Whitney (the highest peak in the continental United States), Mount Adams more than once, and other adventures. He would tell us that although the climbing was challenging, exhausting, and at times dangerous, when he got to the top and saw the view, he said, “It was worth it all.” One gets a whole new perspective when they view their world from 14,000 feet above sea level. Similarly, one’s worldview is determined by where one is “standing.”

As a Christian who believes in the accuracy and divinity of the Bible, mine is a biblical worldview. More specifically, I look at the issues of life in this world from my best “standing” of the truths, commands, and principles in Scripture. (I am aware that there will not be 100% agreement within the Christian community on all issues). However, everyone has a set of beliefs, philosophies, morals, and principles upon which they “stand.” Those beliefs shape the individual’s worldview, including one’s view on the following moral issue.

Forty-nine years ago this month, the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 vote, opened the door for legalized abortion across the nation. The merits of the case for legalizing abortion and whether the seven affirming justices’ reasoning for such a landmark decision was constitutional or not is not what I care to address in this column. Instead, I hope to share why, from a biblical worldview, the life of the unborn is sacred and therefore deserves protection.

At Christmas, we celebrate the initiation of God’s plan to reconcile humanity to Himself. First, however, the Christmas story begins with the account of Christ’s miraculous conception, where the angel Gabriel tells Mary who her son would be and what He would do – even before she was pregnant. Shortly before the miraculous conception of Jesus in Mary’s womb, He is called a king.

Unlike anyone else, we know that Jesus existed in eternity before Bethlehem. However, Jesus is not the only person whose earthly life and identity were announced before being formed in the womb. For example, God told the prophet Jeremiah “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.” (Jer 1:5 NIV84). Before Jeremiah was conceived in his mother’s womb, God knew him, and on that basis, He chose Jeremiah to be His prophet to that generation.

Likewise, King David declared in Psalm 139:16, “Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” God determined the work that He desired for David before the future King of Israel’s body took shape

in his mother's womb. Lastly, the prophet Isaiah told the Israelites of his day, "...Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name" (Isa 49:1b NIV84).

Moreover, God knows someone before their body takes shape because He is the one who forms them. Both Jeremiah (1:5) and Isaiah (49:5) declared that God is the One "who formed me in the womb." Many other passages in Scripture speak similarly.

It is important to note that God "spoke" every living thing into existence in the creation account, except Adam and Eve. The Hebrew words used in Genesis for creating our first parents show God stooping down to the ground and forming their bodies with His hands (Adam formed out of clay and Eve out of Adam's rib).

Even the Law given through Moses in the wilderness (Ex. 21:22-25) recognized the unborn baby as a human life separate and distinct from its mother. The Law stated that if harm came to either the mother or the child, the guilty party was punished accordingly. The Bible taught 3,500 years ago, that which today's medical science has finally discovered (since 1973), namely, a pregnant woman has a separate and unique human being within her (from conception). Therefore, (in this worldview), it's not "my body, my choice" because another person lives within the mother that deserves a chance to live.

Therefore, due to God's direct involvement, this unformed child's life is sacred, and God expects society to protect that life as if it were their own. Consequently, I do not identify myself as "anti-abortion," but biblically "pro-life." In addition, there is mercy and hope for those who have been involved with abortion and are struggling with guilt and shame. First John 1:9 says that if we confess our sin, He will forgive us and cleanse us of all that "stuff" (guilt and shame) that came along with that sin. He is the only one who can.

In closing, I want to encourage you that, from a biblical worldview, your life matters to God. Your life is sacred to Him because He formed you and gave you life. Therefore, no matter what has occurred so far in this life, you are still of great worth to Him. As this new year begins, I pray that you, the reader, and those close to you experience the new life, hope, forgiveness, and joy He offers to all who come to Him.

If you need further help with post-abortion trauma or issues of suicide or self-harm, please reach out to someone or contact me, and I can get you in contact with caring faith-based professional help. Your life is sacred and of great worth. Happy New Year!