

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

The Sanctity of Life  
Selected Scriptures



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

The days in which we live are both significant and stormy. But never is the Christian to view his or her world with passive indifference. Among the many issues that have ravaged our land, abortion ranks as one of the primary issues. This is not something we can hope will just go away. There is every indication it will be in the forefront of our nation's political and legal future for years to come. Essentially, however, it is not merely a political or legal issue but a moral one . . . with deeply spiritual overtones. Because this is true, we need to be alert, informed, and concerned.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. A Few Introductory Remarks

As Christians, we are accountable to God for how we handle the important issue of abortion. Regardless of our political allegiances, we must acknowledge the clear teaching of Scripture on this topic. Therefore, this message has a fourfold purpose:

- *To inform people about what is happening.* The statistics regarding abortion are staggering, and the number of lives touched by this barbarous act is virtually uncountable.
- *To help people gain courage.* Christians must have the courage to say no before temptation lures us into bed with somebody who is not our marital partner, to receive forgiveness if we have given into temptation, and to stand firm and hold on to our convictions without shame.
- *To motivate people to get involved.* This is not the kind of issue that we simply agree to pray about or nod in agreement. The tragedy of abortion calls for action. Certainly we must pray, but we must also get involved as the Lord leads.
- *To give comfort and reassurance to those who live with the scars of regret.* So many women and men suffer with guilt and pain in the aftermath of abortion. God offers the promise of forgiveness, healing, and a fresh start.



## Quotable

*There is  
something distinctly  
precious about  
human life—  
so precious and  
unique it must  
be protected.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM01

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

## The Sanctity of Life *Selected Scriptures*

---

### 2. Some Significant Tensions and Statistics

The war on human life, on those who cannot speak for themselves, demands our attention and action. Lives are being interrupted brutally, tragically, and thoughtlessly; and Scripture demands a response.

Because abortion is a hot-button topic, talking about it from the pulpit introduces some tensions:

- Whether or not it is appropriate for a pastor to discuss from the pulpit a subject so intimate and personal
- The ethical dilemmas created by extreme situations such as rape, incest, and the health of the mother
- The challenge to focus on biblical and spiritual priorities and avoid getting caught up in political and social agendas
- The possibility of being intimidated by well-meaning people who want a pastor to take up the cause in their own way
- The possibility of arousing enormous guilt and regret in those who may have had an abortion but have already been forgiven by God

### 3. Major Scriptures Worth Considering (Genesis 1:26–27; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 22:9–10; 139:13–16)

When Father, Son, and Spirit finished creating the vast universe, the sun and stars, as well as the verdant earth to sustain animal and plant life, they came together to plan their next project—man and woman. Of all the created things, only human beings can walk, talk, and fellowship with the Creator. Only man and woman can bear God's image.

In Psalm 22:9–10, the psalmist confessed that the Lord had been his God even from his mother's womb. As God built his bones and wove together the intricate arteries, muscle fibers, and the structure of his internal being, David bore God's image. Even as our Triune God stitched together the psalmist's personality, hair color, and temperament, He knew and loved David.

Because there is something distinctly precious and unique about human life, it must be protected. The Lord prohibits murder because it destroys the image of God housed within each individual. Scripture teaches these basic truths about the sanctity of human life:

- God sets apart human life as distinctive and valuable.
- God preserves and protects human life as no other life is to be protected on earth.
- Life begins at conception.
- Because God's will is to protect life *after* birth, it must be His will to protect it *before* birth.



# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

**The Sanctity of Life**  
*Selected Scriptures*

---



## LET'S LIVE IT

Our hearts sink at the thought of millions of unborn babies dying each year because of abortion. So what can we do in the face of such statistics to make a change? Here are some options for personal involvement:

- Volunteer your time, energy, and financial support.
- Make your home available to unwed mothers, or support ministries that reach out to them.
- Write letters, make phone calls, and get involved in your government and policy-making.
- Participate in community projects and demonstrations that publicize this important issue.
- Practice moral purity in your private life, and accept what God chooses for you whether you planned it or not.
- Pray, pray, pray, and PRAY!

**How is God calling you to respond personally to advocate for the unborn? Have you been affected by abortion? Have you found forgiveness and healing in Christ? How can you help others experience God's grace?**



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

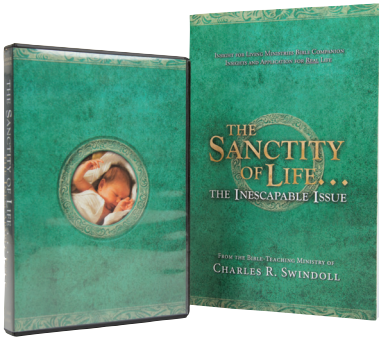
MM01

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

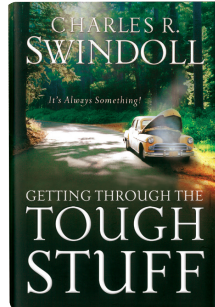
The Sanctity of Life  
*Selected Scriptures*



## Tools for Digging Deeper



**The Sanctity of Life . . .  
The Inescapable Issue**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
Classic CD series and softcover  
Bible Companion



**Getting Through the  
Tough Stuff**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
softcover book



**Clearing Away the  
Trash We Regret**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
booklet

For related resources, please call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK 0800 787 9364



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM01

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

Abortion . . . after the Fact  
*Selected Scriptures*



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Issues are being addressed openly today that were once only whispered behind closed doors. Among them, abortion ranks near the top. Numerous individuals declare the necessity of preserving human life in the womb. Many are building bold and eloquent cases for protecting the unborn, denouncing the tragedy of abortion-on-demand, and declaring their convictions before the media as well as on the streets and in other public places. What is often overlooked, however, is the individual who has already had an abortion. Preventive counsel is readily available . . . but corrective assistance and compassionate care are frequently conspicuous by their absence. What do we say to the woman who has already gotten an abortion? How can we help the person who advised a friend or relative to abort her child? This is the flip side of a crucial issue and cannot be ignored.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. A Desire for Understanding

As we approach the sensitive topic of abortion, we must acknowledge two things. First, Scripture is not soft on abortion. As we learned in the last message, passage after passage in God's Word affirm the sanctity of life and call Christians to action to defend helpless, unborn babies. Second, though the alarming statistics of abortion rates in America and around the world tend to make our blood boil, we must handle this issue with grace and balance. Yes, abortion does end a human life, making it murder. But God offers forgiveness to those who have gotten or encouraged an abortion. No sin is too heinous that the Lord cannot or will not extend grace. A woman who has had an abortion can receive restoration and go on to a fruitful, meaningful life.

We are all sinners, prone to wander from the Lord and from what we *know* to be true. God knows that we are frail creatures, and He offers both the power to obey and forgiveness when we don't.



## Quotable

*God recognizes  
our sins and  
hears our  
confessions. He  
remembers we  
are made from dust.  
He is merciful.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM02

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

## Abortion . . . after the Fact *Selected Scriptures*

### 2. General Counsel from God's Relevant Word

Scripture teaches four general facts about sin which we can apply to the issue of abortion.

- *Sin is sin and we all commit it.* The categories of sin are numerous. However we define sin, it always means missing the mark, it always has consequences, and we are all sinners (Psalm 14:2–3; Romans 3:23).
- *God is grieved but never shocked by our disobedience.* Thankfully, God remembers that we are frail and prone to wander from Him (Psalm 103:12–14). As a loving Father, God disciplines us, and during the recovery process following disobedience, He teaches us to obey (Hebrews 12:5–11).
- *Some sins incur greater consequences than others.* Some sins are private and their consequences are private. Other iniquities are public and produce more widespread pain. The consequences of abortion often include physical pain and lasting physical damage, emotional suffering, guilt, depression, and so on. We cannot commit sin and think that we will escape the consequences (Proverbs 6:27–29).
- *Recovery and return to a fruitful life is God's desire for all of us.* Just as no earthly father who disciplines a son leaves him in a perpetual state of discipline, so our heavenly Father, though He reproves us, has no interest in our living our lives under the constant cloud of guilt. God wants those who have had an abortion to receive forgiveness and restoration and live a joyful life. God's Word offers these four steps to recovery:
  1. Fully acknowledge the wrong we have done.
  2. Genuinely repent following confession.
  3. Claim the cleansing that God offers.
  4. Deliberately refuse to let anyone keep you in bondage to guilt once you have worked through this painstaking process.



#### A CLOSER LOOK

##### *David: A Case Study in God's Forgiveness*

David sinned. As king, he used his power to take advantage of Bathsheba and have her husband killed. Upon being confronted by the prophet Nathan, David humbled himself before God, calling for the grace of purification that so many of us long for after we have fallen. And while David grievously wronged Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah, ultimately the king sinned against God. Psalm 51 presents sin as an evil deed in God's sight (Psalm 51:4), as well as a condition that plagued David from birth (51:5). We see here that sin creates significant problems in our relationships and circumstances. But more than that, David's response to his failure reminds us that our sin places us in opposition to God. And when we find ourselves there, we should respond as David did: ask for grace and purification, that we may come to God with a "broken and contrite heart" (51:17).



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM02

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

Abortion . . . after the Fact  
*Selected Scriptures*

---



## LET'S LIVE IT

For those who live with the guilt and regret that follow an abortion, God offers hope. Here is some specific advice to all who live with guilt and regret:

- You cannot undo the past—don't try.
- You may not be able to cope with the present—don't quit.
- You must not waste the future—don't hide.

If you have undergone an abortion or have counseled someone to have one, will you confess and pray for the fortitude to recover and heal with the power of God?

If you have not personally experienced abortion, would you commit to praying for the healing and future ministry of those who have?



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM02

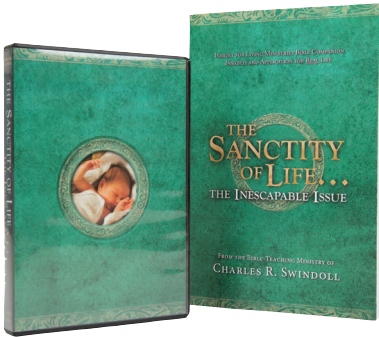


# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

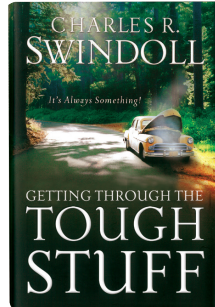
Abortion . . . after the Fact  
*Selected Scriptures*



## Tools for Digging Deeper



**The Sanctity of Life . . .  
The Inescapable Issue**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
Classic CD series and softcover  
Bible Companion



**Getting Through the  
Tough Stuff**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
softcover book



**Clearing Away the  
Trash We Regret**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
booklet

For related resources, please call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK 0800 787 9364



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM02



# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

A Plea for Morality  
Selected Scriptures



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Sexual promiscuity is neither new nor novel. Illicit sex is almost as old as humanity, always promising more than it can deliver. More palatable words have replaced the obsolete and ugly ones. Adultery has become “an affair.” Cheating and wife-swapping are now merely “playing around.” Inviting terms veil the ugliness of illicit sex in mystery, fascination, and excitement. What was once spoken of in closely guarded terms is now a best seller, a torrid scene on the movie screen, a television soap opera, the object of late-night talk show jokes, and even table talk among teens. Sex sells. Sex gets ratings. Sex is big business. Our culture has gone beyond the point of total saturation and has fallen off the deep end. We’re told, “You only live once so live it up! Fulfill all of your sexual fantasies before they put the last nail in your coffin . . . before it’s too late!” To speak of sexual purity in a society like ours may seem futile and may make us the object of jokes and scorn, but we must.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. An Ancient Scene with a Relevant Ring

Let’s travel back in time, when the nation of Israel prospered under righteous King David. It was springtime, the flowers were in bloom, and the early sun had warmed the rooftop of the palace in Jerusalem. Behind the palace lived a young married woman who had no children. Her husband was out of town on military duty. Before she retired for the evening, she took a bath on her rooftop. She didn’t parade her feminine beauty. Bathsheba was a faithful wife.

And King David, about 40 years old at the time, was a gallant warrior and a gifted monarch, but he wasn’t a peeping Tom on the prowl. By this time, David already had seven wives, several concubines, and seventeen children! But David had what everyone else has: time on his hands and unaccountable privacy. And before the morning, Bathsheba would be carrying David’s child. Then, David’s attempt to cover up his sin left one man dead and his own family cursed.

What process can lead two unassuming people into sexual sin? First, there is *attraction*, which leads to *curiosity*. Curiosity is followed by *temptation*. Then, when imagination kicks in, temptation becomes the sin of *fantasy* and



## Quotable

*Temptation  
will be with  
you all your life.  
No exceptions.  
But God can  
help you  
overcome it.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM03

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

## A Plea for Morality

### *Selected Scriptures*

eventually, *lust*. Lust then blinds us to the consequences of sin, and the *act* of infidelity results. Then, when the fog of lust clears, we realize that our actions have left a trail of destruction and brokenness. Truly, “temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death” (James 1:14–15 NLT).

## 2. Some Scriptural Insights with Practical Warnings (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Corinthians 12:20–21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8)

Let’s consider three specific New Testament Scriptures that address purity.

- **First Thessalonians 4:1–8**

The first of these three passages is perhaps the most explicit statement in all of Paul’s writings regarding sexual immorality. Paul wrote this letter to believers in Macedonia, a free-spirited society that not only condoned divorce but permitted extramarital affairs. Even in that permissive culture, Paul called Christians to walk in obedience to God’s standard of moral purity and to abstain from any kind of sexual sin.

- **First Corinthians 6:15–20**

If we think morals were loose in Thessalonica, the extremes allowed in Corinth will boggle our minds! Since Paul repeated the word “body” six times in this passage, his point is directly related to using one’s body as an instrument of sexual sin. Somehow, sexual sin alone takes a toll on humans that no other sin does. In gluttony, drug abuse, and crimes against others, the body participates in the sin but it isn’t the *instrument* of the sin. Sexual sin, on the other hand, breaks the mystical bond between the believer and Christ and causes irreparable damage to one’s soul and, sometimes, one’s body.

- **Second Corinthians 12:20–21**

In this passage, Paul again wrote to the Corinthians on the subject of sexual immorality. In fact, Paul stated his feelings candidly, telling the Corinthian believers that he was afraid to come visit them, because he might be disappointed or, worse, humiliated because they hadn’t cleansed themselves of sexual impurity. There were three primary sins that the Corinthians struggled with: first, *impurity*, including covetousness, greed, and idolatry; second, *immorality*, a term used for sexual activity outside of marriage; and third, *sensuality* or a willful defiance of decency. Paul’s real problem with the Corinthians was that they had not *repented* of these impure actions. Only repentance, turning away from sexual sin, will lead to true freedom.



# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

A Plea for Morality

*Selected Scriptures*



## A CLOSER LOOK

### *David and Bathsheba*

Fresh off a series of victories on the battlefield, David was at an all-time high. He had ample money, incredible power, unquestioned authority, and remarkable fame. Therefore he was vulnerable. Perhaps he became a tad impressed by his own track record because in 2 Samuel 11:1, David indulged himself. David was in bed, not in battle. Had he been where he belonged—with his troops—the Bathsheba episode would never have been. Our greatest battles don't usually come when we're working hard; they come when we have too much unguarded leisure. Hard times create dependent people. We don't become proud when we're dependent on God. Survival keeps believers humble. Pride happens when everything is swinging in our direction. When we are growing in prestige and fame and significance, that's the time to watch out! In good times and struggles, we Christians should evaluate our thoughts and examine our lives according to Scripture . . . and, of course, surround ourselves with accountability.



## LET'S LIVE IT

So what should Christians do if they have engaged in sexual impurity? Here are several helpful solutions:

- *Acknowledge the impurity.* It will heal the distance between us and the Lord.
- *Break all connections.* It will stop the cycle of sin.
- *Communicate your need.* It will make you accountable.
- *Determine to abstain.* It will free you to be all God means you to be.

**Do you have any sexual sins to acknowledge and deal with? How can you make yourself accountable to others so that you won't fall when temptation comes?**



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

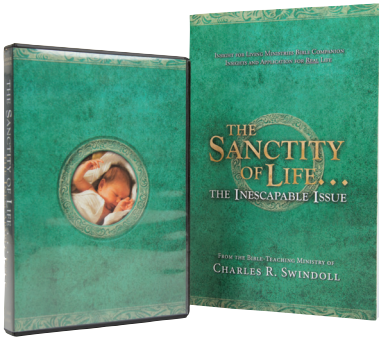
MM03

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

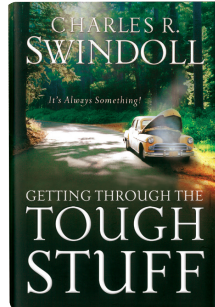
A Plea for Morality  
*Selected Scriptures*



## Tools for Digging Deeper



**The Sanctity of Life . . .  
The Inescapable Issue**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
Classic CD series and softcover  
Bible Companion



**Getting Through the  
Tough Stuff**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
softcover book



**Clearing Away the  
Trash We Regret**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
booklet

For related resources, please call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK 0800 787 9364



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM03

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

A Time for Strong Resolve  
Selected Scriptures



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

*Courage* is just another word for inner strength. Courage is the determination to hang in there, to persevere, endure hardship, fear, and all manner of difficulty. The fact is, it's impossible to live victoriously for Jesus Christ without courage. We cannot honor God in a godless culture without courage. The real test of courage isn't so much for those fighting on the battlefield . . . or for witnessing in the midst of opposition . . . or even for facing down a burglar in our homes. Real courage demands a strong resolve that goes much deeper than all of that . . . and is much more demanding. Be assured that in some way, your resolve will be tested today and every day. Your test of courage may not be as exciting as a beachhead landing or sailing around Cape Horn or making a spacewalk. Instead, it may be as simple as saying no to an improper invitation. It may be as uneventful as facing a pile of laundry with a positive attitude. It may be a private or unknown struggle within you between right and wrong. Remember, God's Medal of Honor winners are made in secret, because our most courageous acts occur down deep inside . . . away from the view of the general public. That takes courage. It takes a strong resolve.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. Four Thoughts About Moral Purity

Our society, with its lax morals and permissiveness, makes living a pure life difficult. But within the church, Christians also face challenges to our theology and our resolve. From legalism to accounts of moral defection from the pulpit all the way down to the pew, Christians often struggle to live in obedience to God's Word.

As Christians seek to honor God with our lives, we must remember these four truths:

- *The enemy is hard at work.* Satan, our great adversary, lurks around the corner waiting to trip us. We must be aware of his methods and prepare ourselves to withstand them. Peter reminds us: "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8 NLT).



## Quotable

*Refuse to  
slacken, surrender,  
or quit the path  
of obedience  
to God no matter  
how intense  
the pressure.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM04

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

## A Time for Strong Resolve

### *Selected Scriptures*

- *The pressures and the needs are enormous.* The cares of life put pressure on all of us and can weaken us to temptation. This is especially true for those engaged in spiritual leadership. We must take to heart Peter's admonition: "Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are" (1 Peter 5:9 NLT).
- *The temptation to overreact is great.* When faced with trials and challenges to our faith, it's easy to do one of three things: succumb and surrender, fight in the energy of our flesh, or simply quit.
- *This is the time for strong resolve.* Maybe there have been times when we could have lived the Christian life without much drive or determination . . . when a person could sort of drift along almost carelessly. But no longer! The stakes are simply too high!

## 2. Some Lessons from the Psalms

Psalms 102 is the work of a troubled man—the prayer of an afflicted, faint believer. Though he was once a fervent spiritual leader, for reasons we don't know, apathy and depression had set in. The psalmist felt a loss of motivation (Psalm 102:1–4), a loss of appetite (102:4–5), and a loss of self-respect and determination (102:6–7).

Whether or not we are in a Christian leadership role, all believers face criticism and trials that tempt us to quit, give up, and throw in the towel. But Psalm 5 reminds us that we can't face trials in our own strength. We need the Lord to intervene and give us supernatural courage. Psalm 5:8 is a prayer we all should pray often, "Lord, lead me as you promised you would; otherwise my enemies will conquer me. Tell me clearly what to do, which way to turn" (NLT).



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM04

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

A Time for Strong Resolve  
*Selected Scriptures*



## A CLOSER LOOK

### *Finding Courage in Trying Times*

When we face trials or are mistreated, it's easy to doubt God's love. And when we doubt God's love, we lose our rudder in life and eventually drift into sin. So how did David stay on course when his enemies victimized him? David resolved to keep his eyes fixed on God's "lovingkindness"—His covenant faithfulness. The Lord revealed this central attribute in Exodus 34 in response to Moses' desire to see God's glory. The Lord passed before Moses and declared His name: "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). With this picture of God in mind, David sought to honor Him in times of struggle and victory. With laser focus, Christians must zero in on God's love when we are mistreated. Let's read and reread Exodus 34:6 and surround ourselves with like-minded believers who will encourage us when our circumstances and feelings tempt us to doubt.



## LET'S LIVE IT

So how can Christians stay strong against temptation?

- *Resolved: to be alert to the presence of evil and the strategy of the adversary*
- *Resolved: to stay fervent in prayer, not hesitant to call down supernatural assistance and, when necessary, divine discipline*
- *Resolved: to refuse to retaliate in the energy of the flesh*
- *Resolved: to refuse to slacken, surrender, or quit the path of obedience no matter how intense the battle*
- *Resolved: to seek to glorify the Lord and trust the Word of God, regardless of the consequences*

Do you view yourself as a courageous Christian? Why, or why not? Which resolution do you need to focus on this week?



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM04

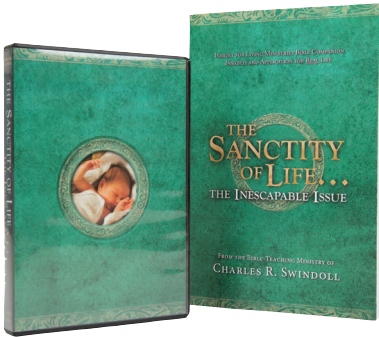


# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

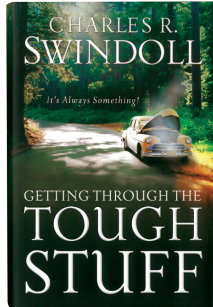
A Time for Strong Resolve  
*Selected Scriptures*



## Tools for Digging Deeper



**The Sanctity of Life . . .  
The Inescapable Issue**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
Classic CD series and softcover  
Bible Companion



**Getting Through the  
Tough Stuff**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
softcover book



**Clearing Away the  
Trash We Regret**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
booklet

For related resources, please call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK 0800 787 9364



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 1990 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM04