

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



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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.



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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?



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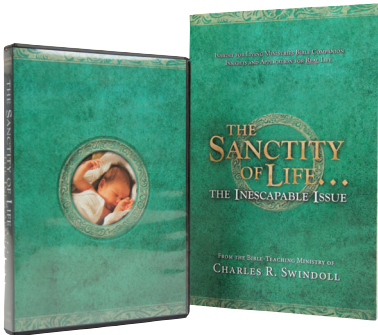
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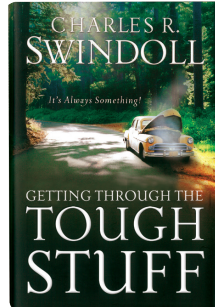
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Tools for Digging Deeper



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