

Sanctity of Life

(Genesis 1:26-31)

Series Title: "Joy Before the Fall"

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ Define "life"?
- ⇒ How can we describe life in a way that is meaningful? Explain...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Genesis 1:26-31 (NLT)

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

29 Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. 30 And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

31 Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. In a couple sentences, explain what's going on in this passage of Scripture:

2. Because God created humans in His own image, all human life is sacred. However, this doesn't mean that all humans reflect the image of God in a way that shows the sacredness of their own lives. Since all human life is sacred, what should be our attitude toward all people as image bearers of God?

3. Read Psalm 139:13-16. What does the Psalmist describe about God's ongoing creation of human life? Does this passage prove that life within the womb is just as sacred as life outside of the womb? If so, how? If not, why not?

4. Is there ever a time when the rights of one person should outweigh the rights of another person? For example, should my right to live however I want to override someone else's right to live how they want to? Who is right and who is wrong in this case?

5. Now consider the purpose of all life is to *live*. All life was created to live and thrive and grow. However, it was created to live and thrive and grow within the context of bearing the image of God. What results when human life isn't allowed the chance to reflect the image of God?

6. As children of God in this world, followers of Christ must live as He taught us to live. Instead of stopping life from happening, we should be the catalysts for helping life to thrive by pointing people to the One in whose image they were made: *GOD*. Do all Christians you know fulfill this role in life? Explain...

7. Are you willing to stand in the gap for life? Are you willing to be a champion for life? Are you willing to take a stand for those who are unable to take a stand for themselves? If so, explain what you're willing to do...

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **ALL LIFE IS SACRED!** All persons born or unborn were/are created in the image of God. It's time for God's people to take a stand for life and become catalysts for helping life thrive by pointing people to the Creator of all life: *GOD*!
- ⇒ **TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE.** What can you do to take a stand for all life? How can you be a voice for those with no voice? How can you give hope to those with no hope? What are you willing to do to be a champion for life as an ambassador of God? Consider serving at a medical clinic that is pro-life (i.e., Life Choices—<http://www.yourlifechoicesinfo.com/>). Consider becoming a foster parent or adopting a child. Consider coming along side of a family that is fostering a child or who has just recently adopted a child.
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Genesis 1:27* and *Psalm 139:13-16*.