

Love Life – The Sanctity of Life

We're going to talk today about some things that perhaps may be a little uncomfortable. It's not meant to be, but based on people's experiences, it's how some may receive it this morning. But my objective today is to look at how the life we enjoy today is a gift from the Author of life – God, but the purpose and pursuit of the enemy is to steal away life.

We have some strong cultural issues that have become rallying cries for many who want full control of their own life, and which have become viable options and (in the world's eyes) very acceptable options for ending life.

Of course, here in Canada we're no strangers to the reality of abortion and the ending of life at its beginning. But now we're leading the way at ending life at its end through MAID – Medical Assistance in Dying. They make this sound very helpful and compassionate, but this has no longer been about assisting people in dying, not that this made it more acceptable to begin with. But now this is being done for people who are not at risk of dying and just simply don't want to live any longer.

What we've done is made murder very normal. We've devalued life and placed in the hands of individuals a decision that should only be in the hands of God.

Now of course when it comes to the topic of abortion, a couple arguments people like to give in defense of it is:

1. My body my choice.
2. An unborn baby is not yet a life.

Now as we address these issues and talk about the sanctity of life, it's important that we look to the source of all life – God! And we must look to what His Word, the Bible says.

All throughout God's Word we see the extreme value placed on human life.

- The sixth commandment: *"You shall not murder"* (Exodus 20:13).
- **Luke 12:7**, *"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."*
- Of course John 3:16 displays the importance of human life. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* Our lives were worth God giving up His Son in order to spare us from death.

- There is an intrinsic value to our lives.

Now I'm not talking about us being valuable because of who we are, but because of Whose we are.

We've been created with a special design and a special purpose.

Genesis 1:26–27, *"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

This passage reveals the uniqueness of the creation of human life. Nothing else on this planet can claim they were created in the image of God except for humanity. We were created to resemble God in that we have a moral, spiritual, and intellectual capacity. We were made to be in relationship with God and to enjoy a relationship with Him. This is why we're created in His image.

- This wasn't done for any of His other creation, namely the animals.
- Animals aren't congregating together to worship God or pray together.
- Animals aren't worried about their future. I've got a cat, that cat isn't worried about a thing.
- There's a noticeable distinction between humanity and the rest of God's creation.

That's why when people try to argue that aborting a child is no different than putting down a pet, they're missing the very dynamic of the imago dei – that we are image bearers of God.

Notice how Genesis 1:27 reads: *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."*

- There's a threefold emphasis here on God's creation of man, as though He's putting a special focus on the tapestry of this creation over everything else.

Getting back to some of these arguments used to justify abortion or euthanasia, it all comes down to a humanistic view of life. Or that we are the masters of our own body and choices.

- It's certainly how many in the world think, but it should not be the view held by the believer.

People argue that an unborn child is not a living being. That life starts at birth.

- A recent survey of biologists from around the world showed that 96% believe that human life begins at conception. Most of those taking the survey were not Christians. Some were most likely agnostics or atheists. But they know that life begins at conception.
- **Jeremiah 1:5**, *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

People claim that this is just a fetus and is dependent on the mother for survival. That the mother is the host and therefore can have jurisdiction over this baby.

- I can be very dependent on my wife, I'm glad she doesn't see me as dead weight and just take matters into her own hands.
- We have many in our society who are dependent on others (ie. quadriplegics: those who have been mentally handicapped). I'm thankful we don't treat these people as an unwanted pregnancy.

People say that this baby is just a part of the mothers' body – my body my choice. But they fail to see the complete distinction and separation this baby has.

- This baby may be in your body, but it is not your body.
- It has its own DNA, own blood type, has its own organs. You just can't do whatever you want with your body, if what you do affects other people (ie. going on public transit with no clothes on). And this unborn baby is not your body!

You see, to think that we are better off aborting a baby, or we're better off making the decision to end a life, is to put ourselves in the drivers seat of a life that is not ours to begin with.

Our lives belong to God. He made us and He created us for His purposes.

- **Psalms 100:3**, *"Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."*
- **Ephesians 2:10**, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

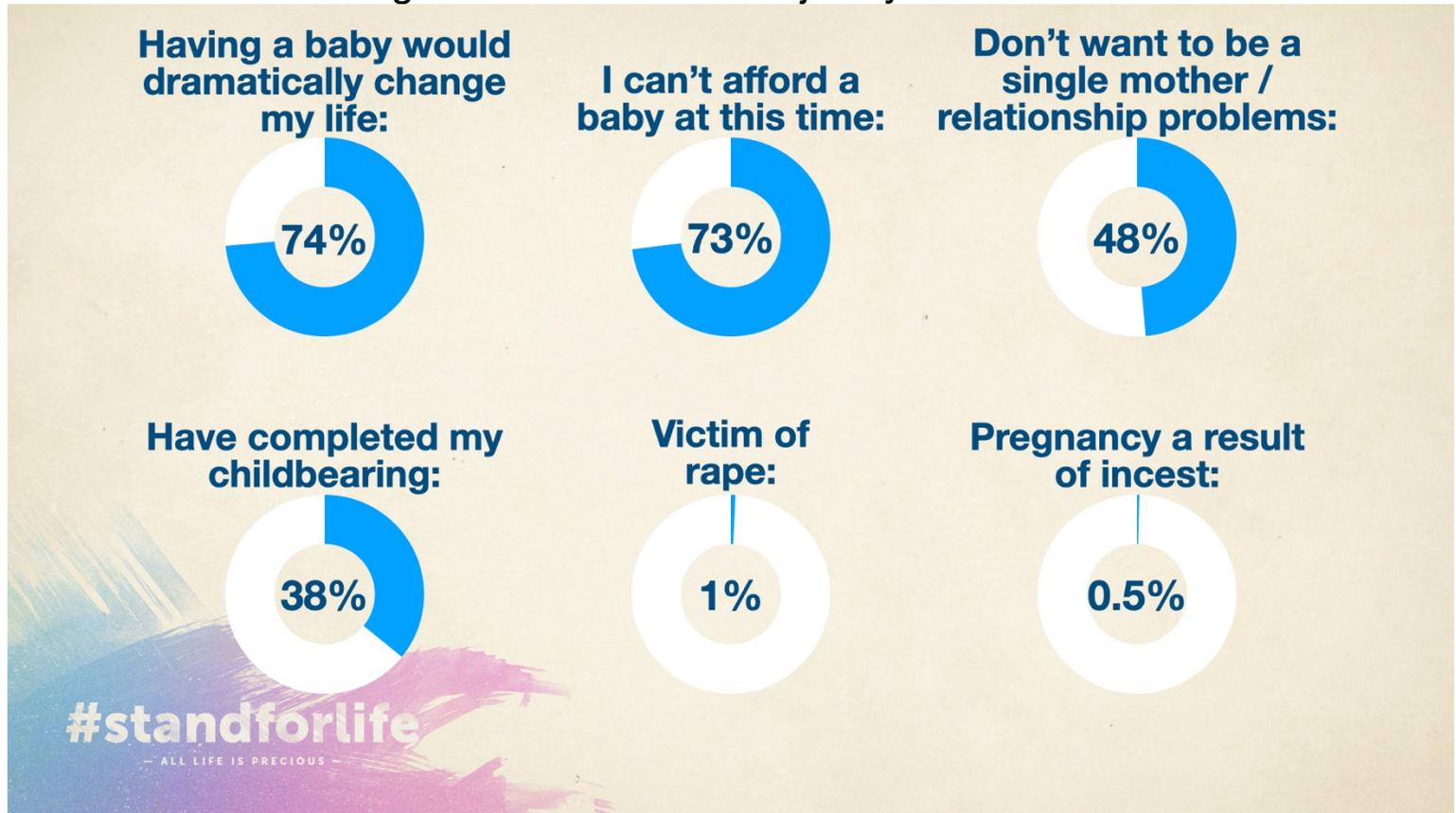
These are truths that make a difference in how we view life. It matters especially for the least of these. God doesn't make mistakes. But He accomplishes His good pleasure in and through every life.

- **Revelation 4:11 (KJV)**, “*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*”

When we begin to look at taking a life as viable options to remedy other struggles, we are carrying out Satan’s work.

Understand the spiritual fight we are up against. There is an immense warfare being waged on life today. The sort of Satanic propaganda that is getting passed off as health care or women’s rights but which leads people down a path that is further from God’s best is a sad one to say the least.

Here’s some of the arguments often used to justify an abortion:



Understand what’s driving this. This is an antichrist spirit that is behind this. It’s the antithesis to the gospel and who Jesus is.

John 10:10 is a powerful defense to what we see playing out in the decisions being made regarding issues like abortion and/or MAiD.

And let me just remind you, these are not political issues, they’re not health care issues, these are spiritual issues. They are matters of life and death.

John 10:10, *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

Notice what the aim of Jesus is. It's to **give** life, and to give life even more abundantly. This is a life that is overflowing with goodness. It's beyond measure, to where you can't contain it. That's a blessed life. This is the life that is ours through a relationship with Jesus.

- No matter what you've been through, no matter what sins have been committed, no matter how far away from God you've been, Jesus has come to give you life! And that life is realized by being restored back into fellowship with our Maker who made us for this purpose and made us to be image bearers of Him. This restoration comes through putting our faith in Him for the forgiveness of sin.

But Satan is doing everything he can to stop people from coming to Jesus and becoming image bearers of God.

Satan's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy.

- He can't give life, he can't enhance life, he can only steal it away. And he will rely on his deceptive character to tell you the lies you need to hear to convince you that this life is not worth keeping.
- Some of those lies may sound pretty convincing and legit but it's not of God.
- Anytime we listen to the lies of Satan we aren't upholding the truth. And it's the truth that will set us free ultimately.

Satan's only objective is to kill and destroy. Every abortion, every ending of a life by our doing, is serving the enemy's purpose.

There is great value in life. And maybe you haven't seen it or experienced it yet, but it's found in the One who created you and put His imprint on you.

The bible shows clearly that all life matters.

- **Psalm 139:13–16**, *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them."*

- **Job 10:11–12**, *"[Did You not] Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews? ¹² You have granted me life and favor, And Your care has preserved my spirit."*

Now a lot of us can easily sit back on issues like this and think it doesn't pertain to us. This is too political. This is too offensive perhaps for some. But this is all about a gospel issue. We are seeing babies and people killed, never given the opportunity to see what God would do with their lives.

Abortion doesn't just take a life, it steals away joy and blessing from a mom and dad, relationships are affected, may experience years of depressions and guilt. That is Satan's strategy. People need to know the life giving and guilt freeing grace of Jesus Christ. This is the role the church is to have. This isn't something to roll over and turn a blind eye to. This is for the church to be ready to take a stand over – to stand for life! Let this be an opportunity for the love of Jesus to shine bright through us, dispelling the darkness that is surging in this world.

"Unless a man becomes the enemy of an evil, he will not even become its slave but rather its champion."

— G.K. Chesterton

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless.

Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Proverbs 31:8–9, *"Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy."*

The House of Refuge Statement

Riverside Calvary Chapel is a House of refuge; This applies to everyone in this church or people you know that need a place of refuge.

Here is what we believe:

If you find yourself in an unplanned pregnancy, please know that being pregnant is not a sin, and the child you carry is not a punishment; it is a blessing. God is knitting this child in your womb. You may have made a

sinful decision that led to this pregnancy, or you may have even been sinned against, but we want you to know that you are loved, and we will do whatever it takes to help you carry and care for this precious child before and after birth.

We can never support or encourage the decision for a woman to have an abortion, because the child you carry is made in the image of God and is intrinsically valuable and loved by God. You need to know how we will respond.

Here's what we won't do:

This church family will not gossip about you, shame you, or abandon you. This is a House of Refuge, and we will not allow for the family of God to harm one another with words or actions contrary to the love of God as revealed in His word.

Here is what we will do:

We will do everything in our power to remove whatever obstacles may stand in the way of you having this child. There are people in this church ready to mentor you, throw you a baby shower, and to connect you with resources both inside and outside of our church. Resources such as local pregnancy care centres, and if required, adoption agencies.

We will also hold men accountable for living out their calling to provide and protect women and children.

Finally:

If you have ever had an abortion in your past, we want you to know that abortion is **not** an unforgivable sin. Whoever confesses and forsakes their sins finds both forgiveness and mercy. If you have never gone through a post abortion Bible study, we will be happy to connect you to one so that you can walk in complete healing and freedom and find the RESTORED life in Jesus Christ that is promised in His word.