

## **Revive Us: Sanctity of Life – Recognize Sacredness – Exodus 20:1-17**

**Read Exodus 20:1-17**

**Play FCC Video**

Last week, you were encouraged to pursue holiness, because without the holiness of God in your life and in the life of our church, authentic revival cannot take place. On the day we annually set aside and bring to the forefront the topic of life, it is important to note that sanctity of life should not be confined only to conversations and acts of preservation for just the unborn. True sanctity of life means that we place value on all human life. I pray you leave today, challenged in your heart, to think of sanctity of life on higher grounds.

When you consider the value of all human life, do you see those lives as sacred? Do you see all human life as set apart for the service and worship of God? If not, then your view of life is not in alignment with God's. Since all humans are now born into sinfulness, it is not the goodness or holiness of man that helps us understand how sacred life is, but it is the goodness and holiness of our Creator that helps us understand the true reasoning behind protecting, not just the unborn, but all human life. Aside from salvation in and through Jesus Christ, the most precious gift God has given us is the gift of life. We celebrate its beginning and mourn its end, and by doing so, we acknowledge that all of life is significant and therefore has immense value.

As you have seen, we often connect sanctity of life with abortion and protection of the unborn, but if we want to move spiritually in a direction which promotes true revival, we must also recognize that there is much more involved. A biblical perspective, which is the perspective every Christian should utilize, means that sanctity of life, which is the way you view all human life, is tied directly to moral convictions. Hearing that probably makes you uncomfortable, but let's face it, every conversation dealing with moral issues makes us uncomfortable. The Bible makes it clear from the very beginning that life is sacred – that human life is set apart, holy, and unique – because we are made in the image of God. **Read Genesis 1:26-28a.** (Stop after “And God blessed them”) It is in these verses that God lets us know how valuable every person is. God values every person's life and if we truly desire to imitate our Creator, we must value every life as well.

This is where humanity often misses the boat. At the top of Earth's created order sits humans. As a result of years upon years of man's sinfulness. Sins on top of sins, a society has been created where unfortunately higher value is often placed on one person's life over that of another. This blatant act which is often rooted in pride is a direct violation of God's moral order and stands as the cause of all sorts of evils. If we regain our moral compass and see things as God sees them, murders wouldn't occur. Adulterous affairs would not happen. Thieves would be out of business. Widows would be cared for. There would be no need for orphanages. Racism would not exist. There would be no need for capital punishment. Homelessness would be a thing of the past. Our elderly population would be cared for. If man were to live according to the moral

standards set forth by an almighty God, then our world would never place one person, or one people group over and above another. Scripture makes it abundantly clear that God doesn't differentiate, nor does He assign varying values to any human life. With God, it doesn't matter where a person comes from, what they look like, how old they are, how wealthy they are or are not, skin color is irrelevant. Every person is created in the image of God and for that reason, we must place extreme value on every person. Political affiliations do not matter. Individual opinions do not matter. Only the Words of our Creator, who values life:

In the Womb

**Read Jeremiah 1:5**

**Read Psalm 139:13**

Outside the Womb

**Read Leviticus 19:33-34**

**Read Matthew 25:35-36**

What we must be willing to recognize is that God views all human life as *SACRED*, and because of this, if we desire for Him to revive us, we must adapt to this view as well. We must **Recognize Sacredness!** Remember our text from last week out of Psalm 51? "*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*" When you pray this prayer and you do it with expectation that God will begin such a work in your heart, then you must understand that all your own views and all your own political affiliations, and all your own opinions will be washed clean and replaced with the holiness and sacredness of Christ. If new life is sacred, then all life is sacred. If we are going to take a biblical approach to the sanctity of life, this means we have a responsibility to help the poor, the widow, the orphan, the elderly, the immigrant, the disadvantaged, and the underserved.

If you are going to truly be an advocate for the sanctity of life, and proclaim you believe in the sanctity of life, it is imperative you begin by searching your own heart and asking yourself some tough questions.

Do you really believe in the value of all human life? If so, is it based on your standards or those of God?

The quick answer is to say yes to this question because who is going to say no? Don't stop there; go deeper. Ask yourself.

Are you willing to fight for the rights of the child after they are born in the same way you were willing to before they were born?

Revive us, O God, to our original sacredness and forgive us for placing other gods ahead of you.