

Agape's weekly devotion – Monday, 15 August 2022, "The Sanctity of Human Life."

³Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. ⁴"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. ⁶"Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. [Genesis 9:3-6]

After spending a year and 20 days in the Ark (due to the global flood), Noah was commanded by God to depart the Ark, he and his family, and all the animals. Contained in these four verses are two prohibitions from God. First, mankind was now allowed to kill animals and eat them for food. However, Noah was told he could not eat meat that still had its lifeblood in it. Second, Noah was commanded not to shed human blood. In other words, to unlawfully kill another human being. By both of these accounts, we learn how serious shed blood is to God. "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed." Therefore, God authorized lawful governments to carry capital punishment (Romans 13). However, God never authorized man to take vengeance into his own hands and take another person's life. A lesson that should have been learned after Cain killed Abel and the consequences he faced (Genesis 4). "Vengeance is mine says the Lord I shall repay." (Romans 12:9). Also, what God told Noah was a prerequisite to the Sixth Commandment, "Thou shall not kill." (Exodus 2:13) In John 10:10 it says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and have *it* abundantly." The thief is Satan and his primary mission is to stop mankind from valuing human life, by taking life or by influencing us to live beneath our privileges. Because Jesus values human life, and wants us to value human life, He offers us eternal life by faith in Him as Savior and Lord. Therefore, if we truly value the sanctity of human life we would place our lives and our children's lives in God's hands.

Now let's examine why all of this matters today. Ask yourself why did God command Noah to value the sanctity of human life immediately after the flood? God had just destroyed all human life because of sin, and now that He was starting humanity over with Noah and his family, He wanted us to know how important human life was to Him and that we should never take life for granted.

After the flood, the entire human race, including all races and ethnicities, came from Adam's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Also, after the flood, mankind was still sinners and in need of a Savior. Therefore, until God revealed the Savior, Jesus Christ, in the New Testament, He knew that man's heart would still be drawn toward evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Therefore, since the fall of man, human beings do not believe in the sanctity of life. We know that is true because of how human beings treat one another. Murder happens every day; often, it leads the news broadcast. Mass shootings in America have become an acceptable way of life, especially involving AR-15 semi-automatic weapons. What makes this so sad is it does not seem to matter when innocent children are killed simply because they went to school that day. Racism is still alive and well, while at the same time, our politics have become our religion. Jesus commanded us to love one another (John 13:34), but we obviously have not obeyed because we treat God's commands as though they were suggestions. Therefore, we will have to suffer the consequences of our actions because God knows all and sees all.

One final point I want to make before I conclude, as it relates to the sanctity of human life, is the issue of abortion. God told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations." [Jeremiah 1:5] Also, in Psalms 139, the Psalmist says, "For You created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully *made*." These verses make it clear that life begins in the womb at conception, not at birth. Therefore, when a child is aborted, often because they are an inconvenience, that is still murder because only God can give life or take life.

Have a blessed week in Jesus' name!!

Because of Calvary,

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