

Sermon Title: Standing for Life in a Culture of Death

by: Pastor Alan Hannah

Scripture: [Genesis 1:26-27 NLT] ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. 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.” ²⁷So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them.

1. Human life is sacred because we bear our Creator’s image and all life belongs to Him.

- God created and imprinted His image upon each person, giving dignity and value to every single human life despite its stage of development.
 - God’s people must be comprehensively pro-life.
 - To attack an unborn child or any “image-bearer” is to attack the very image of the Creator God. Assaulting or enslaving another human being is nothing less than an attempt to eliminate the reminder that we are created by and accountable to the one true God.
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2. The sacredness of life has always been, first and foremost, a spiritual battle, not a cultural one.

- Since sin entered the world through the fall of man (Genesis 3), we have been living in a culture of death.
 - If we refuse to allow Jesus to rule on the throne of our lives, we will go to murderous lengths to maintain “perceived” control.
 - Sacredness of life can only be valued through the cross of Jesus Christ.
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3. The church of Jesus Christ must lead the way in standing for life amidst a culture of death.

- The cross of Jesus Christ offers grace and forgiveness for those affected by past actions against life.

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UP

1. Would you ever like to lead or facilitate your own growth group? Why not?
2. When you hear the phrase “sanctity of life” what does it mean to you most and why?



DISCUSSION

1. What resonated with you most about Alan’s sermon today and why?
2. In what ways do you recognize that we currently live in a “culture of death?” Describe some examples.
3. What do you think it means to be created in “God’s image,” and why is that important for us to affirm and believe?
4. On a scale of 1-10, to what extent are you allowing Jesus to rule on the “throne” of your life? In what areas are you refusing Him access and why?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today’s message.

- Matthew 19:4
- Isaiah 1:17
- Matthew 25:36

PRACTICE

- Consider some potential prayer topics related to “sanctity of life issues” and write them down on the white board, then gather into small groups of 3-4 and pray through those topics.
- Spend some alone time with God asking Him how you can better “stand for life in a culture of death.” Are there specific areas or causes you can engage for His glory and for the good of mankind? Take time to listen for what He’s saying to you. Write down in a journal what you are hearing or sensing. With God’s help develop some practical action steps to be obedient to what you hear.