

Sanctity of Human Life in 2011  
Vineland Park Baptist Church  
January 23, 2011  
Jim Gunn

This is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Each year on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America churches are asked to speak out on behalf of the weakest member of our human family, the unborn child.

I and the other elders have taken our turns on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday and I have about run out of anything new to tell you. My last turn was in January 2007 and I used Psalm 139 as a basis for showing how God views human life.

Psalm 139:13-17

<sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;\*  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And *that* my soul knows very well.  
<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup> 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.  
<sup>17</sup> How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

How much does God value human life?

A few weeks ago we looked at Ephesians 4:9 where Paul quotes Psalm 139:15 regarding the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The lowest parts of the earth are the womb!

That's how much God values human life; the Eternal Son, became a Man!

Eph 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.  
<sup>8</sup> Therefore He says:  
*"When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men."*

<sup>9</sup> (Now this, "*He ascended*" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Now it would be vain of me to think that if you were here in January 2007 that you would remember what I said four years ago. When you get close to my age, if something happened last week you may not remember it the next. Cora and I only need two movies; watch one of them one week and the other the next week and not remember; saves a lot of money that way.

But I can tell you this; I am as strongly Pro-Life as I have been since the Lord Jesus had mercy on this sinner and saved me over 42 years ago.

I fear for the future of America. The evil of radical Islam is growing exponentially. If there is any one thing that cries out for God to bring judgment on this nation it is abortion on demand. And God uses evil to overcome evil!

On January 22, 1973, 38 years ago yesterday, the United States Supreme Court found something in our Constitution that was unknown to the founders of this nation and had been hidden and for over 200 years – the so-called “right to privacy” and they crafted words made out of whole cloth to make abortion on demand legal.

This should be a national day of repentance and mourning but I can’t find it on any calendar that I looked at. We have “Ground Hog Day” but no remorse over killing innocent human life!

What is legal is not necessarily moral. In Nazi Germany in the 1930s it was legal to murder Jews and mentally impaired human beings.

The Roe vs. Wade decision on abortion declared war on the unborn.

**In America, every year, we kill more babies through abortions than all the men and women killed in combat in all the wars since the founding of this country.**

**The most dangerous place in America for a person to be is in the womb!**

Listen carefully, I need to say that even in as small a group as we have here that some of us have likely had a personal experience with an abortion. A daughter, a niece, a girlfriend, a boyfriend, a husband, and perhaps, even you.

So I need to assure you that God forgives sin. If you have participated in an abortion please know that abortion is not the unforgivable sin. It is surely sin but God forgives all who truly repent and trust in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. There is healing in Christ.

This church supports Sav-A-Life, Bessemer in several ways.

One of the ministries of Sav-A-Life, Bessemer is *Recovering from Abortion*.

The following is from their website, of which our Brother Walter Swain is the webmaster.

“Abortion is a wound that hurts for a long, long, long time. It doesn't have to. If you are suffering from guilt caused by an abortion there is hope and help. The Bible study support group, *Forgiven and Set Free* provides a safe place to share fears, anger, pain and shame as you work through the heartache of your abortion.”

That said, it is also necessary for me warn my hearers; do not commit premeditated murder by having, or aiding and abetting, an abortion. That is willful sin!

Do not tempt God; God is not fooled by hypocrisy.

If it were in my power I would require every woman, girl, boyfriend, or husband who considers abortion as the only solution to an inconvenient pregnancy to look at two things before proceeding with the abortion:

- 1) An ultra-sound image of whatever that is that you want to kill. By eight weeks of pregnancy, about the time when a woman learns she is pregnant the baby is recognizable as a baby.
- 2) Pictures of the results of an abortion; the tissue and bone that is sucked into a jar.

Now I don't apologize for being too graphic because this is a grizzly matter that we are facing.

I used the term “inconvenient pregnancy” for a reason.

The vast majority of abortions are performed for reasons of inconvenience. Embarrassment; an unwanted child; expense.

### What is the Sanctity of Human Life?

Let's define our words.

Sanctity: holiness of life.

Human: a being created in the image of God; not other animal life and not a plant.

Life: a breathing growing existence; different from plant life.

### **What can be said on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in 2011 that will make a difference?**

This sermon, if you can call it a sermon:

1) Is not an apologetic to convince those who do not, rather, cannot due to judicial spiritual blindness, understand that the unborn "fetus" is a human being at the moment of conception in the womb. A fetus cannot become something that it is not to begin with. If it is not killed, the fetus is and will be a human being.

Christians believe that Jesus became a human being at the instant He was conceived in the womb of a virgin named Mary.

2) Is not a scientific medical argument to prove when life begins; I have no medical credentials anyway. Whatever the fetus is you have to kill it to prevent it from being born. If you have to kill it then it is alive. The question of its humanness is nonsense. No unborn fetus in the womb of a human has ever become anything other than another human child!

Okay Jim, if this is not your typical pro-life / anti-abortion lecture what are you up to this morning?

My idea is to take these few minutes and talk about life.

What is life? Life is anything that grows.

Dirt is dirt no matter in what form it is found; sand, rocks, dust, or boulders.

There is a finite quantity of dirt. While dirt may change its form it doesn't grow.

God made all of the dirt He intended to have when, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

But there is more life now, and in the history of mankind, than when God created the first man and the first woman.

Life comes into existence and life grows.

After the first two humans; the male was formed out of the dust of the ground, and the female was taken out of the side of the man. Life is a continuum.

It takes a part of a male and a part of a female to cause another human being to come into existence.

Where does new human life come from?

### **God is the Author of Conception.**

A pregnancy may not be planned or desired and it may well be inconvenient but it is never an "accident."

God is the Author of conception. The circumstance of conception does not alter the fact that the baby is a human being.

That is why I do not support abortion in the case of rape and/or incest. Again, the circumstance of conception does not alter the fact that the baby is a human being.

The only exception; the only valid reason for an abortion, is to truly protect the life of the mother. When the pregnancy really will cause the death of the mother then it becomes a matter for the mother and the father of the baby to decide.

Every human birth is amazing and the Bible tells us about several births that can only be explained as God being the Author of Conception.

### Take the story of Samson.

#### Judges 13

Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. <sup>3</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup> Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or *similar* drink, and not to eat anything unclean. <sup>5</sup> For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

<sup>6</sup> So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. <sup>7</sup> And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

<sup>8</sup> Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."

<sup>9</sup> And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. <sup>10</sup> Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the *other* day has just now appeared to me!"

<sup>11</sup> So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?"

And He said, "I am."

<sup>12</sup> Manoah said, "Now let Your words come *to pass!* What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"

<sup>13</sup> So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. <sup>14</sup> She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or *similar* drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

<sup>15</sup> Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You."

<sup>16</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.)

<sup>17</sup> Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What *is* Your name, that when Your words come *to pass* we may honor You?"

<sup>18</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it *is* wonderful?"

<sup>19</sup> So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on — <sup>20</sup> it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar — the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground. <sup>21</sup> When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"

<sup>23</sup> But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these *things*, nor would He have told us *such things* as these at this time."

<sup>24</sup> So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. <sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

The conception of Sampson was ordained by God;

<sup>3</sup> And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

There is also the story of Ruth.

Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed *be* the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! <sup>15</sup> And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. <sup>17</sup> Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

... the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

The birth of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:5-14

<sup>5</sup> There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup> And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. <sup>7</sup> But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup> So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, <sup>9</sup> according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

In the past few weeks of the Christmas season we have been reminded of the miraculous birth of Jesus so I won't say much about that event at this time.

Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!"



<sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible."

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

My main point this morning is that human life is precious to God; human life is a sanctified and holy thing.

Human life is so holy in the sight of God that a murderer forfeits his or her life. Are you saying that God calls for capital punishment?

That is exactly right. What stronger proof can there be of the sanctity of human life? What is more important to anyone than their life?

What I believe is that the reason abortions continue to be a viable answer to "problem" pregnancies is due to willful ignorance and misinformation.

The following passages are in the bulletin today.

In my mind the doctor who performs an abortion is not ignorant. The poor woman may have been duped by the pro-abortion lies but not so with the doctor.

This is the prayer of the abortionist.

### **Psalm 10:8-11**

**8** He sits in the lurking places of the villages;  
In the secret places he murders the innocent;  
His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.  
**9** He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;  
He lies in wait to catch the poor;  
He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.  
**10** So he crouches, he lies low,  
That the helpless may fall by his strength.  
**11** He has said in his heart,  
"God has forgotten;  
He hides His face;

**But God is not mocked!**

### **Romans 2:16**

... in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

**You have no doubt all heard the pro-abortion claims: They are all lies!**

Notice that I said, "Pro-abortion" and did not use the euphemism "Pro-choice." The liberal media are on the side of the abortion industry when they use "Anti-Choice" instead of "Pro-Life" and use "Pro-choice" instead of "Pro-abortion".

The **chief lie** of the Pro-abortion industry is the non-existent "**right to privacy**" that the Supreme Court discovered in the Constitution. That is pure fiction.

Then there is the euphemistic lie of "**Pro-Choice**". Pro-Choice means the freedom of choice of one human being to kill another human being whose only crime is that he or she is inconvenient.

Rape and incest are not reasons for killing the baby.

God is the Author of conception. The circumstance of conception does not alter the fact that the baby is a human being.

You rarely hear the abortion industry talk about adoption. That would deprive the abortionists of about \$300 per dead baby.

That most abortions are necessary to **protect the life of the mother** is another lie. This is almost never the case. The only valid reason to kill a baby in the womb is if the mother's life is truly threatened. Then a choice must be made between the life of the mother and the life of the child and that unless one of them dies they will **both** die.

That the **fetus is part of the woman's body** is not only a lie, it is absurd.

The absolute best answer to this absurd pro-abortion lie is to answer this question:

“Is it possible for this baby in the womb to be a boy?” Since in about 50 percent of the cases the baby **will be a boy** the correct answer is, “Yes.”

If the answer **can ever** be “Yes” then the unborn baby cannot be part of the mother's body. **The baby is a boy and the mother is a girl!**

These and other pro-abortion lies are designed to deceive the willingly ignorant into having an abortion to solve the “problem” presented by the unborn baby. These “problems” almost always come down to **embarrassment, expense, or convenience**.

Those are the most often used lies of the Pro-abortion industry.

**The Pro-Life arguments are very simple. If you can prove to me that the Pro-Life arguments are false then I will personally support abortion on demand.**

**The Pro-Life arguments are simple because everyone knows they are true. The Pro-abortion people simply reject the truth.**

The best pro-life slogan that I have come across is:

**“Abortion stops a beating heart.” Is that true or false?**

**If America has not already gone over the “slippery slope” and is being judged by the Holy God the only hope is national repentance.**

**But judgment begins at the house of God**

1 Peter 4:17-18

<sup>17</sup> For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

<sup>18</sup> And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? KJV

**The Gospel is the only hope for America!**

**Those who repent and trust in the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone may pray for God to have mercy on America.**

**All other prayers are an insult to God!**

February 5<sup>th</sup> is the annual Walk-for-Life fundraiser for Sav-A-Life, Bessemer.

Most of the budget for Sav-A-Life is funded by this walk.

In 2010, 876 girls heard the gospel after coming for a free pregnancy test. Hundreds of others (family & friends) who came with these girls or attended free parenting classes or sought out help through the crisis closet or benefited from a baby shower also heard the gospel!

The results that we know about:

40 prayed to receive Christ.

49 rededicated to Christ.

188 babies were born.

This center has been recognized nationwide as one of the top few busiest, in spite of operating on a shoe-string budget. This center would like to be able to offer ultrasounds, but the Lord has not provided the funds for that yet.