

A Matter of Life and Breath

Ps 139:13-16

I. God is the Giver of Life

1. Genesis 2:7

⁷then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

2. With that breath from God, human life began

3. God still is the giver of life

4. Life is a gift and a stewardship

a. Part of the stewardship of life is procreation (birds and bees stuff)

b. This is an amazing thought! - God who first created human life involves us in the continuing creation of life!

c. Gen 1:27-28

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”

d. God gives human beings – men and women – the privilege of participation in the creation of life

e. But God is still the ONE who knits us together in our mother’s womb and knows us as a person before we are even completely formed in the womb

5. We are accountable for our stewardship of life because God is *the Ruler* and *Sovereign* of the universe - He always has been

a. The *RIGHT* to *rule* is His

b. But in creation God dared to share His dominion with human beings

c. Gen 1:28

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

II. Dominion Brings Responsibility

1. Man’s right to rule is a derived right

a. We only have it because God has relinquished a portion of His authority to us

b. We “rule” in God’s stead – representing Him

c. *Gen 1:26* says, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let

them have dominion . . . “

2. *We represent God because we are “made in His image”*
 - a. Of all the living things created – only humans bear the *image of God*
 - b. Representing God is part of our stewardship
3. ***Being God’s representatives means we are to “rule” or have dominion over the world - the universe - all living creatures – including human beings! – in such a way that it reflects the way God would rule***
 - a. How wonderful life on earth could be **if** every human being lived based on this concept of stewardship – reflecting God’s image
 - b. Because of our common views of dominion and ruling, we tend to relieve ourselves of responsibility in the area of ruling
 - c. We fail to realize that all of us have our arenas of ruling or having dominion
 - d. Wherever you “rule” – rule like God – a home – at work – at church – in relationships – etc.

III. Man Has Not Represented God Very Well

1. Man has chosen to abuse his role as dominion holder and ruler
2. The root sin of all “sins” is PRIDE
3. Pride and desire for power causes us to rebel against God
4. We forget that He is the Real Ruler - we are simply His representatives – “co-laborers” – “ambassadors”
5. We fail to rule in a way that honors God - we want to rule “our way”
6. This is the sin of Adam and Eve – in prideful rebellion against God they took control of the garden and ruled their way
7. Sin is always a loss of respect for God
8. Loss of respect for God results in loss of respect for God’s creation – and that includes loss of respect for human life

IV. We Are Held Accountable For What We Do With Life

1. Human life is a sacred trust
2. As a society we have lost regard for life –
 - a. Our culture is not a culture of life – but a culture of death
 - b. The loss of regard for the life has manifested itself in many ways – movies – television - video games — drive-by shootings – school shootings – terrorists - abortion –
 - c. The simple fact is that abortion ends a life – life that God gave – life which is a gift from God
 - d. We will be judged for our disregard for human life

3. Quotes:

- * *“The measure of a nation’s greatness is how it treats its weakest members”* – Gandhi
- * *“the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped”* – last speech of Senator Hubert Humphrey
- * *“A society will be judged by how it treats its weakest members and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying”* – Pope John Paul II
- * *“inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it unto me”* - Jesus

4. The Bible clearly affirms that life *begins in the womb* – God knows us in the womb while we are being knit together

- a. When it comes to the question of when life begins, I choose to believe the Supreme Judge rather the Supreme Court –
- b. Abortion ends life because life begins in the womb
- c. Abortion is sin
- d. But silence is also a sin
- e. James 4:17 says, *“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”*

5. It is estimated that around 1.5 million babies per year have been aborted since the legalization of abortion in 1973.

- a. That equals 60 million plus abortions
- b. During WW2, 6 million Jews were put to death in death camps – *simply for being Jews*
- c. Abortion has killed 10 times the number that died in the holocaust
- d. . . . and the majority of us stand by in silence
- e. Out of sight, out of mind
- f. It is only fair that we be reminded that we will be judged for our silence and failure to action

6. Hearing God from the OT

- a. Exodus 21:22-25
 - 1) We don’t like hearing the OT – Barbaric - Uncivilized
 - 2) **But light years ahead of what was there *before***
 - 3) The law of *Lex Talionis* – the punishment fit the crime – measure for measure – reciprocal justice
 - 4) It is still morally abrasive to us today

b. Lev 20:1-5

- 1) Again, this passage is morally offensive (sensitivities)
- 2) But its purpose is to protect life – specifically the lives of children
- 3) Our *gods* go by different names – but children are still offered up – pleasure – freedom – convenience
- 4) The point of these passages is the protection of life - we lose sight of this and focus on the barbaric brutality of the retribution
- 5) What about the brutality of taking the life of a child in the womb or through partial birth abortion?
- 6) Why aren't we morally offended by that?

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible promotes a culture of life
2. Human life is of supreme importance
3. The sanctity of life is based on the image of God
4. We must learn to honor life