



DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today
rooted in Jesus' compassion

life issues

self defense

Synod issues

political parties

capital punishment

cultural expressions of faith

...



DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today
rooted in Jesus' compassion

Life Issues



Life Issues: Middle

- starting point: God's *purpose* for mankind
 - Genesis 1:28: "fill the earth and subdue it"
 - Deuteronomy 6:5: "love the Lord your God..."
 - Leviticus 19:18: "love your neighbor as yourself"
 - Micah 6:8: "to do justice, and to love kindness..."
 - 1 Timothy 3:1: "desires all people to be saved"
 - Matthew 28:19: "disciple all nations"
 - anything else?



Life Issues: Middle

- starting point: God's *priority* for mankind
- temporal life or eternal life?
 - The Gospel is not that Jesus died so that your temporal life could be good!
 - The Gospel is that Jesus died to pay for your sins so that by faith you will be saved and have eternal life!
 - Matthew 6:25-34



Life Issues: Middle

- the family
 - “Now follow the other seven commandments, which relate to our neighbor. Among them is the first and greatest: You shall honor your father and your mother that it may be well with you and you may live long upon the earth. To the position of fatherhood and motherhood God has given special distinction above all positions that are beneath it: He does not simply command us to love our parents, but to honor them.”



Life Issues: Middle

- the family
 - “We must, therefore, impress this truth upon the young [Deuteronomy 6:7] that they should think of their parents as standing in God’s place. They should remember that however lowly, poor, frail, and strange their parents may be, nevertheless, they are the father and the mother given to them by God.”



Life Issues: Middle

- the family
 - All government and authority in society flows from the role and authority of parents over their children.
 - The purpose of families is not only to bear children and contribute to society but to rear godly children.



Life Issues: Middle

- So what does this mean for...
 - academic and faith education
 - public school vs. home school vs. school at home vs. private school vs. Christian school, etc.
 - whose responsibility?
 - parents?
 - church?
 - state?
 - How can we as disciples of Jesus serve in this arena?



Life Issues: Middle

- So what does this mean for...
 - healthcare
 - universal right (at all costs)?
 - untenable: not enough resources, knowledge, etc.; someone has to decide who lives and dies
 - Physical death does not equal spiritual damnation, but we often treat them the same.
 - How can we as disciples of Jesus serve in this arena?



Life Issues: Middle

- So what does this mean for...
 - welfare
 - Whose job is it?
 - parents/extended families?
 - church?
 - NPOs/NGOs?
 - government?
 - How can we as disciples of Jesus serve in this way?



Life Issues: Middle

- So what does this mean for...
 - your topic?
 - How can we as disciples of Jesus serve in this arena?

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES



Life Issues: Middle

- never lose sight of the Gospel
 - for you
 - for everyone

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES

