



# DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today  
rooted in Jesus' compassion

- life issues
- political parties
- ...
- self defense
- capital punishment
- Synod issues
- cultural expressions of faith

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# DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today  
rooted in Jesus' compassion

## Life Issues

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## Groundwork

- Christian/biblical worldview
  - does *not* mean science is rejected but certainly *can* be questioned
  - God is final authority
  - We are disciples of Jesus, children of God by faith, filled with his Holy Spirit, and are obedient to him first in all things.
  - Where he does not explicitly speak, we are free to use our sanctified reason, and respectful disagreement is allowed.

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES

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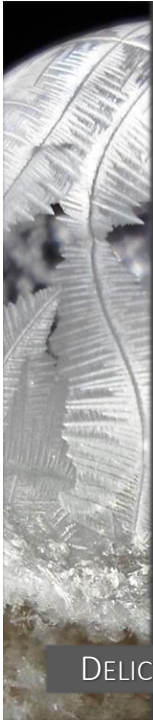
## Life Issues: Overview

- goal: humbly discuss issues related to God's design for life and our role in sustaining & supporting it
- brainstorm
  - What kinds of topics fit into this framework?
  - What critiques are often leveled against the "pro-life movement"?

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES

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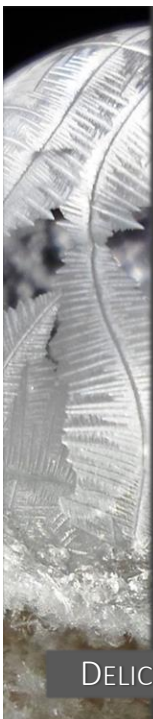
## Life Issues: Beginning

- starting points
  - What is a human?
    - human = body + spirit
    - What do humans create? Humans, of course!
    - James 2:26
    - Psalm 51:5
    - Scripture doesn't question when a human *receives* its soul. Remember that separation of body and spirit (death) was not part of our original design.

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES

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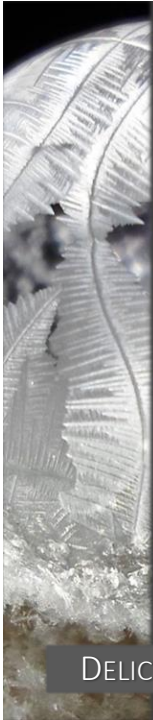
## Life Issues: Beginning

- starting points
  - When does biological human life begin?
    - distinct organism with distinct DNA clearly begins at conception
    - distinct DNA = distinct human
  - **From both a theological and biological perspective, a complete and distinct human comes into being at conception.**
    - *Do not forget this crucial point!*

DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES

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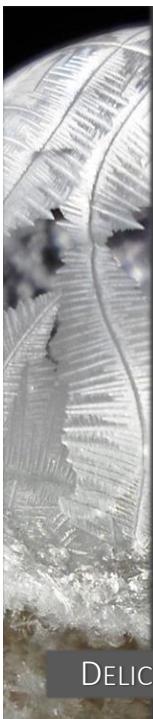
## Life Issues: Beginning

- valuing life
  - ELCA, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, “What Is Human: Shifting the Paradigm”, Kevin Powell, October 2001 (Volume 1 Issue 2)
    - “it seems hypocritical, even idolatrous, to attach so great a value to a microscopic collection of cells.”
  - your thoughts?

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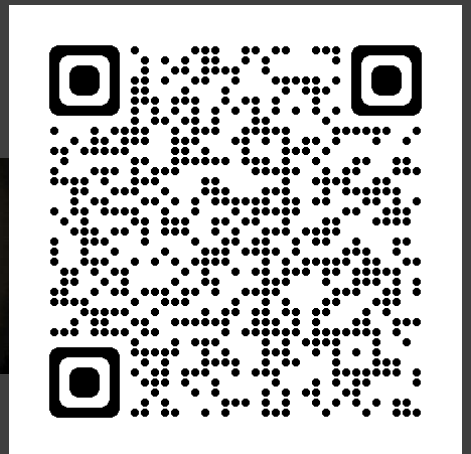
## Life Issues: Beginning

- valuing life
  - TED, “From Conception to Birth”, Edward Tsiaras, December 2010
    - your thoughts?



DELICATE DISCUSSIONS

LIFE ISSUES



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