

SERMON: *The Superiority of Self* Following Jesus in Today's World

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A Picture of Society in the End Times

SIGN 1: The Supremacy of Self

2 Timothy 3:1-5 and Matthew 16:24-25

2 TIMOTHY 3:2 NKJV "For men will be lovers of themselves. . . ."

1. **SCRIPTURAL** view of when life begins:

PSALMS 139:13-16 NKJV "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

JEREMIAH 1:5 NLT "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart."

2. **SCIENTIFIC** view of when life begins:

0-4 Weeks: The "heart tube" beats 65 times a minute while the baby is still smaller than a grain of rice!

5-8 Weeks: Facial features, bone, central nervous system, digestive tract, and a detectable heartbeat are all present.

9-12 Weeks: Arms, hands, fingers, and toes are fully formed and all organs are present while the baby still weighs less than one ounce!

13-16 Weeks: Entering the second trimester, eyelids, eyebrows, eyelashes, nails, and hair are formed; reproductive organs and genitalia are now fully developed.

3. **SOCIAL** view of when life begins:

 When it comes to right and wrong, the enemy likes to <u>REDEFINE</u> the terms.

ISAIAH 5:20 NKJV "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil: Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness: Who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"

PROVERBS 14:12 NKJV "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

PROVERBS 31:8-9 NIV "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

4. **SATANIC** view of when life begins:

The Satanic Temple stated that, "terminating a pregnancy is a central part of a religious ritual that encourages self-empowerment and affirms bodily autonomy."

Society has become lovers of themselves, but the Bible says...

MATTHEW 22:37-39 "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

We should love people with Grace and Truth.

With **GRACE** when they sin. With **TRUTH** that teaches what is Right & Wrong.

Truth without grace is <u>MEAN</u>.
Grace without truth is <u>MEANINGLESS</u>.
But Grace <u>WITH</u> Truth leads to Godliness!