

Issues of Life

How Would Jesus Vote? #2 • September 13, 2026

This week, I took a little tour through the building on a school day and asked people to complete a short sentence for me:

“Life is _____”

Here’s what they said. **Life is...**

- Adventurous
- Wonderful
- Complicated
- Good
- Exciting
- Surprising
- Hard
- Fun
- Terrifying (the kid was smiling and being a dork, don’t worry!)
- Great
- Amazing

I had some other comments along the way, but the prevailing sentiment was very positive about life. Almost everyone put forward an opinion that “life” was in some way valuable and positive and a gift. Granted, this question involved a lot of kids who are attending and adults who are working at Genesis Christian Schools...not inmates on death row. You might expect different answers from men and women and kids living in Palestine or Poland; in the streets of NYC or Tokyo; on the plains of Texas or the mountains of Montana; in mansions on Ward Parkway or apartments in the West Bottoms. There would be different levels of comfort and security and enjoyment...yet, the prevailing sentiment would be very much *“in favor of”* **life**, feeling like life is inherently good and worthwhile, even when reality doesn’t match the hype.

We understand why Moses would tell the Israelites:

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth



to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!"
(Deuteronomy 30:19, NLT)

A love for life is not only common, but it is fundamental to our American government. Can you quote this line with me from our nation's Declaration of Independence?



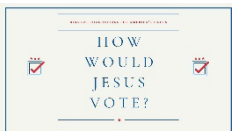
*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

- Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

Life is good!

But...

For an almost-universally praised concept, “life” is strangely controversial when it comes to politics. Almost without fail, policies about life have become some of the most divisive issues in American society.



How would Jesus vote on issues about life?

My answer is the same as last week: He wouldn't!

He is **sovereign**! He is the **King of Kings**. He is the **Lord of Lords**.

Jesus doesn't vote; He *declares*! Jesus doesn't follow the crowd; He *reigns* over it! Jesus doesn't get entangled in political debates; He perfectly *knows*! Jesus doesn't receive; He *creates*!

Jesus doesn't vote.

But you do. And if Jesus is sovereign and supreme over everything...and if we owe our allegiance to God above anyone or anything else, our wisest choice is to look to Him before we make any decisions about what we support or how we vote.

Last week, we started a new, *totally-not-controversial* (!) sermon series talking about “**Biblical Foundations for America’s Issues.**”

We said that the church can and should equip you to put your faith into practice – in every arena. You need Biblical foundations in your **family**. You need Biblical foundations in your **workplace**. You need Biblical foundations in your **marriage**. You need Biblical foundations in your **school**.

And you need Biblical foundations in the **voting booth**.

As Christians, we must have a clear Scriptural filter for the issues that face our nation. We need the Bible before we fill out a ballot.

I made it clear that this series isn’t about me and my own opinions; I only want to make sure you look to God’s Word *before* you make any decisions on the issues of the day.

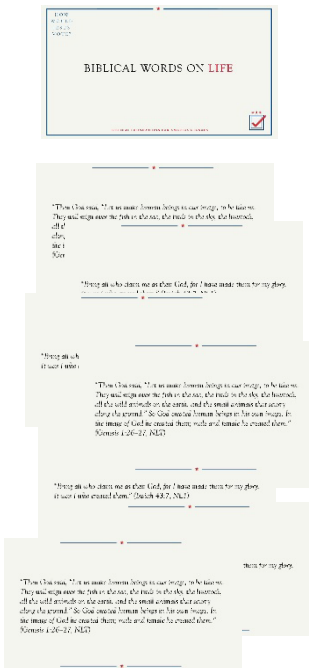
We are the church together. Amen? We might not agree on how to put our love for Jesus into practice, so there will be disagreements. But our job isn’t to *police and punish* every contrary opinion. No, instead our disagreement should be met with *encouragement* to honor Jesus in whatever we decide. The New Testament book of Romans gives guidance on these situations:

“So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.” (Romans 14:10, NLT)

God will set all of us straight one day, so don’t destroy the unity of the church over anything *you* think or anything *I* think...or anything that you *think* I think. Any conversation we have that touches on politics could be passionate and could be divisive (if we allow it to go too far). But if we all can agree that our allegiance to God remains above anyone or anything else, we can serve Him together.

We just need His guidance. And today we need guidance from the Author of Life when we consider issues of life.

“So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.” (Romans 14:10, NLT)

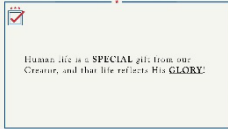


A Biblical View of “Life”

Before I say much else about life, let me start by reading some passages. Open your Bibles and follow along:

- *“Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”* (Genesis 1:26–27, NLT)
- *“Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them.’ ”* (Isaiah 43:7, NLT)
- *“The Lord gives both death and life; he brings some down to the grave but raises others up.”* (1 Samuel 2:6, NLT)
- *“Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He **breathed the breath of life** into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.”* (Genesis 2:7, NLT)
- *“Yet you made [man] **only a little lower** than God and crowned them with glory and honor.”* (Psalm 8:5, NLT)
- *“When you give them your breath, **life is created**, and you renew the face of the earth.”* (Psalm 104:30, NLT)
- *“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. **He himself gives life and breath** to everything, and he satisfies every need.”* (Acts 17:24–25, NLT)

You heard it in these verses. Here is a Biblical foundation on which we should all stand:



Human life is a special gift from our Creator, and that life reflects **His glory!**

Amen?! (Amen!)

Among Christians, that statement by itself should not generate controversy. It is a true statement of Biblical wisdom.

- Some who *don't* follow Jesus might claim that human life is **not special** – that we are nothing more than advanced mammals. Our life, in their view, has no moral worth...no more than any other species, at least. We are on par with dolphins and puppies...and probably lower than them, because dolphins and puppies don't start wars or hack and drain your 401(k) accounts.
 - But Scripture clearly states that **humans** alone among God's creation are made ***"in His image."*** We are created in the image of God, bearing special status and responsibility. There is something special about *human* life!
- Some who *don't* follow Jesus might claim that human life is **not purposeful** – that we are just a series of chemical reactions governed by random interactions of molecules and the paths of electrons. Our life, in their view, has no purpose; it just *is*. We aren't doing anything meaningful, because there *is* no meaning.

And in some sense, they are right. Isaiah the prophet says, ***"Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?"*** (Isaiah 2:22, NIV). By ourselves, we aren't much to behold or follow!

- But Scripture clearly states that God has connected that frail human life with **His own personal glory**. Our life has purpose, and that purpose is to make much of Him and to point everything back to Him as "the infinitely greatest and best of all beings." That is our

purpose! Quoting another preacher here, “*All things else, with regard to worthiness, importance, and excellence, are perfectly as nothing in comparison of him.... All that is ever spoken of in the Scripture as an ultimate end of God’s works is included in that one phrase, the glory of God.*”¹

To elevate Him is an immensely important goal of *human* life!

Human life is a special gift from our Creator, and that life reflects His glory!

Look at the person sitting next to you – on your right, on your left. That person was **created** by God! That person **bears the image** of God! That person was made to **reflect the glory** of God! That person was so **loved** by God that He sent His Son to die on a cross to pay for their sins, paving the way for their current human life to be an everlasting human life that spends the rest of eternity in the praise and enjoyment of God forever!

Life isn’t just good. It is exceptional and purposeful!



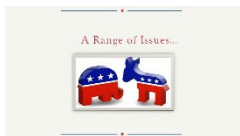
American Issues of Life

Human life, then, should be afforded dignity by the laws of our nation. If God values human life, so should we!

A Range of Issues

As legislators make laws and candidates endorse positions, their decisions either elevate or devalue life.

Have you ever really stopped to consider the **range** of issues that touch on human life and its value? Other issues like fairness and prosperity and freedom are intertwined with them, yet human life is under consideration whenever we talk about:



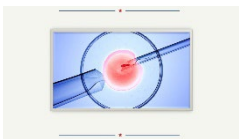
¹ Piper, J. (2002). [*Brothers, we are not professionals: a plea to pastors for radical ministry*](#) (p. 6). Broadman & Holman Publishers.



- **Wars.** Bombs and bullets and drones and missiles end human lives, whether military, civilian, allies, or enemies. Do we support a decision to send in the troops and to guarantee the deaths of hundreds if not thousands of individuals?



- **Speed Limits.** Drivers put other lives on the line when they move faster. Car deaths account for nearly 40,000 deaths per year, and the rate of death doubles for every 10 mph increase in speed. Do we push politicians for speedier commutes that could end in deadly crashes?



- **In Vitro Fertilization.** Parents who wish to have babies spend thousands of dollars creating fertilized eggs and implanting them. But the process creates lots of potential life that is frozen and later disposed of as medical waste. Is the desire to control pregnancy worth the casual destruction of dozens of human lives? Do we advocate for a better outcome?



- **Guns.** Second Amendment rights mean that Americans own a lot of guns (we have more guns than people – 5 guns for every 4 citizens...more than double the rate of other countries). More guns equal more gun deaths. Suicides and homicides take life away from over 44,000 people annually, people who are made in the image of God. What policies should we support if we want to preserve life?



- **Euthanasia.** Growing more common, 14 states now allow for doctor-assisted suicides (marketed as the nice-sounding “death with dignity”). Fear of pain and suffering leads people to end their life early. Do we vote to allow that in our state?



I’m raising a lot of issues without sharing a lot of answers. But I do so to make you think. These issues are often packaged as matters of privacy. Matters of dignity. Matters of self-determination. Matters of convenience. Matters of “rights.” And you and I don’t need much encouragement to think about these matters *selfishly* – in other words, how these issues will benefit me as an individual, or how these issues will allow me to choose what I want.

My challenge is for you to consider “life” as part of the equation. It may not be the only factor at stake, but it should be a consideration. Will you think about “life” when you vote on these issues, or when you support certain candidates? Will you remember that **human life is a special gift from our Creator, and that life reflects His glory?** Will you consider how your vote honors and uplifts His image in your fellow man?

If we want to have a Biblical foundation, then we must consider “life” in all these areas whenever we fill out a ballot!



Life at the Beginning

So far, I’ve intentionally kept the conversation away from the elephant in the room. When we talk about “life,” everyone knows we must address one of the major, hot-topic issues of American politics: **abortion.**

Abortion evokes passionate responses. It deals with “life” at the beginning. Pregnancy and birth are deeply personal issues!



Deb and I had been married for a couple of years when we found out that she was pregnant for the first time. We weren’t expecting the news, so we were shocked! But we recognized it as a gift of God, and we tried to get excited.

Part of getting excited was sharing the news with others, and it just so happened that we were going to see my parents that weekend. We didn’t film a video of the reveal, and we didn’t have any elaborate props (shirts or signs) to surprise them. We just dropped the big news in the kitchen, working a casual “grandparent” comment into the conversation....

And the reaction wasn’t great!

It was mostly silent, and then my dad just carried on talking about some new development in town, like nothing had happened. The lack of enthusiasm was a bit of a gut punch. And to top it off, later, my mom told my sister privately that she wasn’t sure it was such a good idea.

We were young, but we were out of college and married and responsible and capable. “Not a good idea” hit hard. Not that anyone was suggesting terminating the pregnancy...but the lack of excitement made it tough.

Knowing how hard OUR lack of immediate support was, I can’t even imagine how hard it would be for a woman or a couple to face the ACTUAL pressure of no financial support, or lack of help, or poor health, or fear of the future, or giving up other dreams, or raising a child alone.

Pregnancy can force you into a tough situation.



No wonder this issue is so heated! And we haven’t even talked about the issues of “life” – the theological and moral arguments stacked on top of the practical ones. No doubt you know those sides and their talking points well.

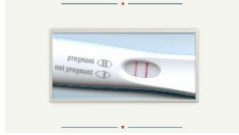
- “The mother gets to choose, because her body is the one affected.”
- “The baby deserves protection, because her body is the one *more* affected.”
- “The mom is fully human, so she gets priority.”
- “The baby is fully human, so she deserves equal priority.”
- “Mom’s quality of life is more important.”
- “Baby’s life is equally important.”
- “It’s murder!”
- “It’s health care!”
- “It’s necessary!”
- “It’s an abomination!”

If you want more arguments, all you need to do is get an A-frame sign and a provocative poster for one side or the other, then stand on a street corner and wait for people to scream those arguments at you.

We have so many facets of this issue to argue!

But the inescapable fact is that *ending* a pregnancy rejects something **God alone** was providing.

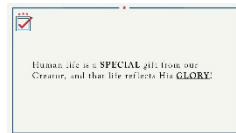
Remember you didn’t *choose* to become pregnant.



- If you were “trying,” you may have chosen to have sex. You may have chosen to time it so the conditions for a baby were optimal. But you didn’t *make it happen*. No person can control and guarantee the outcome, no matter how hard they try or what methods they use.²
- If you weren’t “trying” and it was an accident, or (terribly) a result of assault, that outcome wasn’t controlled or guaranteed by anyone either. You *didn’t* want a baby, yet here one is.

You don’t choose to become pregnant.

God does.



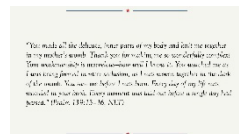
God chooses to give life, where He wills it. God chooses to give life, where He gifts it. Remember, **Human life is a special gift from our Creator; human life reflects His glory!** It is a blessing!

Scripture tells us that...



*“Children are a **gift** from the Lord; they are a **reward** from him. Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior’s hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.” (Psalm 127:3–5, NLT)*

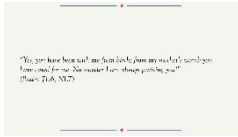
Scripture tells us that God is involved from the very beginning!



*“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.” (Psalm 139:13–16, NLT)*

² “When Rachel saw that she wasn’t having any children for Jacob, she became jealous of her sister. She pleaded with Jacob, “Give me children, or I’ll die!” Then Jacob became furious with Rachel. “Am I God?” he asked. “He’s the one who has kept you from having children!”” (Genesis 30:1–2, NLT)

God not only creates that life, He cares for it.



“Yes, you have been with me from birth; from my mother’s womb you have cared for me. No wonder I am always praising you!” (Psalm 71:6, NLT)

The choice for life was never the mother’s, nor the father’s.

It was the Heavenly Father’s – it was God’s.

I understand the difficult issues related to **autonomy** and **viability** and **quality of life** and **sexual violence**. I understand that it is hard to equate a baby in your arms to a fetus the **size** of a kiwi in the womb... even harder if that life is only a small clump of cells. I understand that it is not always **convenient**, or **timely**, or **cost effective**, or **developmentally perfect**.



But Christians must retain the Biblical foundation that “life” is a gift, before, during, and after delivery! **Human life is a special gift from our Creator; human life reflects His glory!**

You might try to protect that gift through legal means – fighting for laws to ensure that babies have the chance to be born and live.

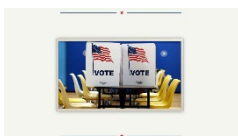
You might try to protect that gift through practical means – working with crisis pregnancy centers to support moms through their term, or adopting a baby whose mom can’t support him.

You might try to protect that gift through personal means – choosing life when you didn’t plan for pregnancy.

*** By the way, if you end up in a situation where you didn’t expect a baby but one is coming, we want to help you. “Every baby is a blessing,” even if every baby has its challenges!***

Why take those steps? Because it isn’t just an embryo or a fetus or a baby. It is a gift.

Conclusion

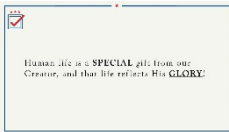


We can debate the nuances of when life begins (though I like one person’s definition – “Life begins when the last kid leaves home and the dog dies”). We can debate the legalities of who is protected. We

can debate how and when and where we elevate life above other concerns.

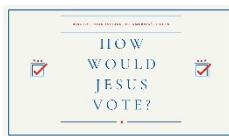
But what we can't debate is that life is special.

And we must have that biblical foundation undergirding our treatment of life when we cast our votes.



Human life is a special gift from our Creator; human life reflects His glory!

Don't let your vote treat that gift lightly.



Prayer

Invitation

Sermon Notes

A Biblical View of “Life”

(Deuteronomy 30:19; Genesis 1:26–27; Isaiah 43:7; 1 Samuel 2:6; Genesis 2:7; Psalm 8:5; Psalm 104:30; Acts 17:24–25)

**Human life is a special gift from our Creator,
and that life reflects His glory!**

American Issues of Life

Life at the Beginning

(Psalm 127:3–5; Psalm 139:13–16; Psalm 71:6)

Sermon Discussion Questions

- Finish the sentence. "Life is _____." Explain why you chose that word.
- What are some issues that involve "life" in American politics? Which ones get the most attention? Why?
- Does Scripture serve as the foundation to shape your positions on issues of life, or is it added as a support to a position you already held? Would your answer be true of most people in the church?
- Read the following verses: *Deuteronomy 30:19; Genesis 1:26–27; Isaiah 43:7; 1 Samuel 2:6; Genesis 2:7; Psalm 8:5; Psalm 104:30; Acts 17:24–25*. What do they communicate about life?
- How is life a special gift? How does it reflect God's glory?
- Does life begin at birth or before? Read Luke 1:41–45. How does it impact your answer?
- Do you have any kids of your own? What have they meant to you? Compare your answer to Psalm 127:3–5.
- How can the church walk beside those who have made choices that ended a life? How can the church walk beside those who are expecting a life?