

IMAGO DEI – God’s Heart for Life

January 21-22, 2023

Matthew 16:15-18 (NIV) – “But what about you? He asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God”. Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it”.

“**Peter**” = Greek *petros* – “stone, pebble, detached rock”; “rock” = Greek *petra* – “mass of connected rock, cliff, cave”

“**church**” = Greek *ekklesia* - “assembly or gathering”

Isaiah 1:12-15 (NIV) – “When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations – I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood!”

Isaiah 1:16-17 (NIV) - “Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight’ stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow”.

“I have a profound reverence for life. And I also have a deep respect for choice. And I just happen to think that a patient’s room is too narrow and cramped a space for a woman, her doctor, and the United States government. That’s too many people in the room. So I trust women in their wisdom to sit with their own doctor, and if they choose, to sit with their pastor, and to pray about that and let their own conscience guide them. Even God gave us a choice” – **Senator Raphael Warnock**

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV) – “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron”.

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2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV) – “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”.

James 1:27 (NIV) – “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world”.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (MSG) – “Long before He laid down earth’s foundations, He had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love. Long, long ago He decided to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure He took in planning this!)”.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) - “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”.

1 Timothy 5:3,5 (NIV) – “Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need...The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help”.