

# ***The Sanctity of Human Life***

January 21, 2024

## **INTRODUCTION**

What do we mean by the phrase, “The Sanctity of Human Life”? And how should that impact our response to that statement?

I probably don’t need to tell you that there is an intense battle in our country today over these very questions—especially it seems, in regard to abortion. And I’ve noticed that we as Christians tend to fall into one of several categories:

1. Passionately Active
2. Occasionally Active
3. Apathetic, Disinterested
4. Confused

I highlight this because I sincerely believe it’s not right for us to remain in categories 3 or 4. Not when the issue is as biblically clear as this one is. Not when the issue is as culturally pressing and urgent and relevant as this one is. Not when we have the ability to say and do *something* as we may say and do in this particular country that we live in today.

## **The Sanctity of Human Life**

In the beginning...

*What do we mean by the phrase the “sanctity of human life”?*

Genesis 1:27 tells us:

*<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.*

So, why is human life sacred? Set apart. To be held with sanctity? Because it is uniquely a reflection of God Himself.

And this life begins at the moment of conception.

King David, in writing Psalm 51, which is the psalm he wrote as a public confession after committing adultery with Bathsheba, wrote these words in verse 5-6:

*<sup>5</sup> Surely I was sinful at birth,  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

*<sup>6</sup> Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;  
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.*

A common argument among scientists, politicians, activists, even some Christian leaders today is that the zygote is not yet human life. It's just this blob of tissue. It's not yet a person. But again, David, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit writes these words in Psalm 139:13-16:

- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.*
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.*

Psalm 139 makes it clear that God considered David *to be David*, even in his unformed body. And already, all of his days were ordained by God before one of them even came to be.

## **Current Policies and Debate (Phill Kark)**

## **How You May Engage (Phill Kark)**

## **Speak Up for Those Who Cannot (Proverbs 31:8-9; 24:10-12)**

### **Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion**

1. What does it mean to be made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27)?
2. According to David, when does the human spirit begin (Psalm 51:5-6)?
3. What does God think about us when we are still a “blob of flesh”, as the world puts it (Psalm 139:13-16)?
4. What implications does this have regarding our current society's debate regarding when a fetus is considered to be a human baby?
5. How should this impact the way you respond to the abortion crisis today? Think of one practical step you might take.