

The Sanctity of Human Life

“A person’s a person...”

Luke 19:1-10

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Feb 17, 2019

I. Human beings are unique from the rest of creation.

- A. God creates people **in His image & likeness**. (Gen. 1:26,27)
- B. God gave people **dominion over the rest of creation**. (Gen. 1:28, Psa. 8:6-8)

Gen. 1:26-28 - ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
²⁷ **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.** ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Psa. 8:6-8 - ⁶ **You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,** ⁷ all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

- C. God says **we matter more** than other created things. (Matt. 6:26; Psa. 8:5)

Matt. 6:26 - ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they?**

Psa. 8:5 (HCSB) - ⁵ **You have made him little less than God** and crowned him with glory and honor.

- D. God **teaches us more** than any other created thing. (Job 35:10,11)

Job 35:10,11 - ¹⁰ But none says, ‘Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night, ¹¹ who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?’

II. Human beings are never just blobs of matter. People ALWAYS matter!

Psa. 139:14 - ¹⁴ I praise you, **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.** Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ **My frame was not hidden from you,** when I was being made in secret, **intricately woven in the depths of the earth.** ¹⁶ **Your eyes saw**

my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, **the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**

The Bible never speaks of a time when a person “doesn’t matter.” There’s no mention of a time period when a person doesn’t have God-given value & significance, even when God is the only one who can see us!

“A person’s a person, no matter how small.” (Dr. Seuss)

III. 3 THINGS WE LEARN FROM JESUS’ INTERACTION WITH ZACCHAEUS

- a. **Jesus does not succumb to the social pressures or identity politics** of His particular “tribe.” (Lk. 19:7)
- b. **Jesus is profoundly compassionate**, seeing Zaccheus as the **person** he is, instead of the stigma that’s attached to him. (Lk. 19:5)

“A person’s a person, _____.”

- c. **Jesus cares about people more than policies.** He has a laser-like focus on who He is, and what He came to do. (Lk. 19:10)

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group discussion:

- (A) Be honest. When you heard the sermon was going to be on the Sanctity of Human Life, what was your reaction?
- (B) Pastor Peter spoke said a “pro-birth ethic” should lead to a more holistic “pro-life ethic.” Did you understand that point? Do you think that’s worth considering or is it just petty semantics? Explain your answer.
- (C) Pastor Peter said Jesus didn’t succumb to social pressures or identity politics. In what ways do you sense that pressure in your social circles? Do you think you contribute to it? What can you start to do differently?
- (D) Who are the vulnerable, voiceless people you need to be actively looking for? What “first step” can you take to imitate Jesus in showing them mercy and compassion?
- (E) Does the message of the Gospel inform your views on the Sanctity of Human Life from womb to tomb? Why or why not?