

The Sanctity of Every Human Life 1/22/12

A. God offers forgiveness and healing for murderers

The testimony of a murderer

1 Timothy 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

¹⁶ And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

We are all murderers

Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

²² "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

We can experience forgiveness and healing for murder

1 John 1:5 And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

⁷ but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.

³⁰ For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

³¹ But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.

³² But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

B. Every human life is...

made by God in the image of God

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

loved and honored by God

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

⁴⁵ in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

⁴⁷ "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸ "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

C. Therefore, we are called to love and honor...

1. u_____ children and their mothers and fathers

Luke 1:39 Now at this time Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹ And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed among women *are* you, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!

⁴³ "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁴⁴ "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

Psalms 139:13 For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

2. persons with d_____

Exodus 4:10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

¹¹ And the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes *him* dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

¹² "Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."

3. orphans and w_____

James 1:27 This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

1 Timothy 5:3 Honor widows who are widows indeed

4. the p_____, helpless, hurting and oppressed

Luke 4:16 And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

¹⁷ And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book, and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are downtrodden,

¹⁹ To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord."

²⁰ And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon Him.

²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

5. other r_____

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands;

¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

6. criminals and t_____

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

Exodus 21:12 "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

Exodus 22:2 "If the thief is caught while breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account.

³ "But if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account.

7. our e_____

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you
⁴⁵ in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers do the same?

⁴⁷ "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸ "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

8. g_____ leaders

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

¹⁶ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

¹⁷ Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

9. employees and e_____

1 Peter 2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

¹⁹ For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

Job 31:13 "If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves When they filed a complaint against me,

¹⁴ What then could I do when God arises, And when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him?

¹⁵ "Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

10. one a_____

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

⁹ who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

11. the opposite s_____

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

¹³ Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.

¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be!

12. s_____

Leviticus 19:32 'You shall rise up before the grayheaded, and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.

1 Timothy 5:1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but *rather* appeal to *him* as a father, *to* the younger men as brothers,

² the older women as mothers, *and* the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

³ Honor widows who are widows indeed;

13. our s_____

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and *let* the wife *see to it* that she respect her husband.

14. our parents and c_____

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

² Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),

³ that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

⁴ And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.