

Sanctity of Life

Kingdom Come: Living for Eternity Right Now series

November 1, 2020

Metro Life Church

Last of this series. Why this series? Prepare you for the election, yes. Not who to vote for but on what basis, laying out foundational Truths upon which we make these decisions

But also to equip you, the saints, for the work and calling you have for bringing a taste of the Kingdom of God to this time, this place. The urgency of preaching the Gospel to all who will believe. Always being ready to give an answer for the hope that we have in Christ

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. – Genesis 1:1-5

Most, if not all of us, would probably be very familiar with and have heard “In the beginning” many, many times ... but do we believe it? Truly believe it?

Because if we do, it changes everything and answers the most controversial questions of our day ... and frankly, those that have gone before us for millennia

So let's dig in ... first of all, let's ask the Holy Spirit to come and help us. Please pray for me as I speak and I'll pray for you as you listen because these are powerful and weighty Truths that demand a response from us

In the beginning, God created ...

So if we truly believe this, and if indeed God did create everything we've ever known and all that we do not yet know ...

Then it stands to reason that the Creator is the master, the Sovereign, the author, the rightful owner of all of life

Meaning, He is Lord and we are not!

Simply put, we don't own any of it. We don't control any of it ... let that sink in
We try to understand all of life around us with our God-given intellect but we don't create. All we can do is learn about what He has already done and how He did it to a very limited degree

ILL: Nature shows ... the glory of God on display!
“Look at what my Dad did!”

Seeing His glory all around us, making the connections, living with this profound Truth that God is our Father, Christ is our brother and friend, the Holy Spirit dwells within us

The inventor of anything is the rightful owner

3And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. – Genesis 1:3-5

Who gets to name the day light and the darkness night? The owner, the parent, the creator

The discoverer of anything (astronomical, scientific) gets to name his discovery any way he wants. No one else has the right to do so

God methodically, not randomly, created each aspect of the world we live in step by step ... and then comes
verse 27

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27

Does that answer some contemporary questions?

“Imago Dei”! (Latin translation)

Let this Truth pour over you like a refreshing shower or thrill your soul like the best news you could have ever hoped for!

Why? I would submit that these two profound Truths change everything! Herein are the answers to our most troubling questions and challenges! Every other aspect of Truth is rooted and grounded in these Truths – any insight, any reason, all philosophy, each and every idea starts here – all hope of eternity with God starts here

How so? Let’s take a closer look ...

1. If He created everything, then He owns it all ... all the rights, everything is under His authority
2. If we are made in His image then human life is precious ... from conception to our last breath

So where do “our rights” fit into all this?

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? – Romans 9:20-21

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

– Matthew 26:39, 42

We see here the human agony of “is there any other way?”

Can you relate? Does this sound familiar?

It is so hard to look at my life and what He is calling me to do and say, “Not as I will, but as you will.”

Of all creation, only humanity is said to be made His image, making it possible to have a personal, intimate relationship with the Almighty God

Christ, the second person of the Trinity, became a human man, the incarnation, to come from heaven to earth, live a perfect life and pay the price for ALL of our sins with His own perfect, human life

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

As Aron shared last week, every person, each and every one that is poor, needy, abused, abandoned by others, all that have been treated unjustly ...

And Chris shared the two weeks before that, every male and every female are made in His image,

regardless of their language, the color of their skin, their income level, their mental capability ... ALL, everyone has eternal value ... and because God loves them, so do we!

They ALL matter to us! (not a political statement)

Each and every human being on the planet has the same Dad!

When you get to heaven and see Christ face to face, how will you know who He is? What will you look for? A Jewish man ... a human ... 100% God, 100% human ... He will look like us!

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

2You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

5You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

13For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

14I 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. – Psalm 139:1-16*



Elias Azarian – born at 24 weeks – 1 lb. 5 oz - Heather and Matt are watching him develop right before their eyes daily!

Would I be wrong to assume that you aren't hearing a lot about these two Truths in the news or online these days? That's why the same questions keep being asked over and over ... as if there isn't an answer!

“Social media is killing truth softly.” Jaron Lanier

Definition - Sanctity: Holiness, the state of being sacred or holy. Goodness, purity, godliness (Webster's 1828)

Modern dictionary: the state or quality of being holy, sacred. Of ultimate importance and inviolability

That's what we are talking about.

Life is sacred. Life is a gift from a Holy God.

Doesn't it make sense that the maker of our life has the authority and power to direct our lives and determine our purpose in the life He's given?

So what are we to think about the life He has given us?

God doesn't make mistakes ... so you can't be one

Ever felt that way?

So what is His purpose/will for us, me? "To love God and enjoy Him forever" Westminster Confession

... we live to bring glory to His name, to honor Him

... we live to do His will, His work and represent Him well to a lost and dying generation

... we are given the privilege of ENJOYING Him! This isn't a religion, its a relationship!

The reason you don't find these Truths as the lead story in your news feed is the fallenness, wickedness of this world. I find myself reading a news article or FB post and I just sit there and shake my head.

The world? Its to be expected

The Church? Saying the same things as the world

This world is so very lost. How silly of me to expect anything other than what I see.

I agonize over how to reach them with the Gospel

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2**in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3**among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6**and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9**not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:1-10*

“God reveals his plan for all his people in his Word, but he does not tell you his individualized plan for you. You and I simply are not able to contain in our limited brains all of God’s plans for us and all of the reasons for those plans.” Paul Tripp, New Morning Mercies

All that we need to know about the purpose of our lives is clear in Scripture, but the rest ... is not up to us. He doesn’t give you life and then say, “God ahead, give it a whirl.”

I repeat, life ... from conception to our last breath and everything in between is for His glory and His purpose. We are called to follow Him day by day and not try to figure out in advance what He wants

EX: several in our family, watched the end of their life. Grace will be 96 this December and we are learning a lot with her living in our home

Mom – aid healed in rehab center

“Just as we can look with love, acceptance and appreciation for all races, tribes and tongues, we look across generations with respect, value and honor.”

Chris Jesse

CONCLUSION:

I trust you can see more clearly the onnection of these Truths to our society and culture today

EX: Francis Schaeffer, How Then Shall We Live video series.

Have you noticed that I haven't even mentioned abortion, suicide, euthanasia (mercy killing)?

Social issues are not to be determined by what we think, feel or want. They are decided by the Truth of God's Word

So let me ask you ... over the course of these last several weeks and this series on Living for Eternity Right Now:

Specific ways you've been convicted over the last several weeks?

Areas you need to repent?

Attitude/lack of care for the poor and oppressed

Your perspective on race

Human sexuality – do you believe 'male and female'

Injustice

Sanctity of life

Has your life changed in any significant way over the last month or so?