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Celebrating Life Created; Psalm 139:13-16
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Introduction – On Jan 22, 1973, in a 7-2 ruling, known as Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down a set of Texas statutes that criminalized abortion in most instances, and effectively legalized abortion in every state. The result of such a landmark decision is what became known as abortion on demand, meaning that abortion became available beyond the small percentage cases of rape, incest, and the health of the mother. The definition of unwanted pregnancy stretched well beyond the confines of rape and incest and the definition of health stretched well beyond a life-threatening situation for the mother. In effect, a child could be aborted, that is, the child's life could be intentionally stopped, because the baby was not wanted.

The death toll of abortion on demand since Jan 22, 1973 is, to say the least, staggering. The number of innocent boys and girls who were alive and growing in their mother's womb and suddenly, intentionally had their lives ended is somewhere between 50 and 54 million. If 50-54 million human beings were systematically and intentionally killed outside of the womb, we would call that genocide. III. Killing Fields of Cambodia. Inside the womb we call it everything else except for what it is. In fact, those who are pro-abortion or pro-choice, have gone to great lengths to change the vocabulary and the language so as to change the discussion away from the central issue, which is life.

For example, in her recent acceptance speech at the Golden Globes, actress Michele Williams argued for the preeminence and ideal of choice. She stated how grateful she was to live in a country where she can make her own choices. She said as women things can happen to our bodies that are not our choice. She stated with much emotion how thankful she was that she could choose when to have her children. The point of her speech was that choice is the great virtue, the great right and freedom. It would seem from the tearful and cheerful response, her audience was in total agreement. Williams carefully framed the entire discussion under the umbrella of choice, making choice the subject of the discussion.

Missing from her speech, however, was the word abortion. That's what she was talking about, the right to choose to have an abortion, abortion on demand, but she didn't say the word abortion. The word abortion brings too much attention to the ugliness of what you are actually talking about when you speak so highly of choice. You're talking about ending the life of an innocent child. She talked about when to have her children, but she didn't mention that choice of when to have her children would also include when to not have her children, that is, when not to bring into this world the baby growing inside your womb. The glaring disconnect in the pro-abortion movement is that children are called children when we have them, but when we choose to abort them, they are not called children – that would give them the status of person. That would give them rights too. And yet a boy out of the womb was a boy in the womb. A girl out of the womb was a girl in the womb. A baby out of the womb was a baby in the womb. When you affirm the choice of when to have your children you are affirming abortion on the basis of nothing more than timing and convenience.

The agenda of the pro-choice advocates is to change the language and thereby frame and change the discussion. So we hear a lot about reproductive freedom, reproductive health, reproductive rights – all of those terms are an attempt to avoid saying what we're actually talking about, abortion. Not to mention you have the freedom and health and rights to reproduce already. That's not what the issue is really about. If the argument can be about choice, freedom, health, and rights, then we don't have to talk about babies, life, and abortion.

Here's another example. As you know 9 states have passed what is known as the heartbeat bill. That is, at around 6 weeks, just the average time a woman finds out she is pregnant, the baby's heartbeat can be detected and viewed through ultrasound technology. The heartbeat bill bans abortion once a baby's heartbeat is detected. Meaning, with a heartbeat, there is no doubt that there is viable life in the womb.

In a recent NYT article, the writer went out of the way to avoid saying heartbeat and rather talked about this legislation being about the embryonic pulse. Later in the article the author writes about "the pulsing of what becomes the fetus' heart." Note the writer goes out of the way to avoid saying heartbeat. If you say heartbeat, then you're talking about a heart, and if you're talking about a heart, you're talking about a person. If it's a person, it's a life. The writer calls it a fetus

because if you call it a baby, you are then talking about a person. If it's a person, it's a life.

The use of language cannot be overemphasized in this discussion. Advocates of heartbeat legislation call it a fetal heartbeat bill because that is what it is, a heartbeat in the fetal stage of pregnancy. Opponents call this legislation forced pregnancy because they want to turn the discussion away from life and personhood to choice and rights. The use of language to frame the discussion is all over this issue. So I thought we would do well on Sanctity of Life Sunday to see how the Bible uses language when it addresses life in the womb. What language does God use in His Word to speak about life in the womb?

- I. Each Life is Created (v13)
 - a. Notice the immediate acknowledgement of the Creator. There it is. You cannot get any more direct, and the matter cannot be stated with any greater clarity. God gives life and God creates life and God is at work in the hidden, unseen sanctuary of the womb, crafting and forming and working.
 - b. Conception and pregnancy are not solely acts of natural causes and natural laws. Natural causes and natural laws are enacted and caused from Him and by Him who oversees and sovereignly rules over all His creation. Nature doesn't budge an inch outside of God's sovereign and wise control. Nature moves when the hand of God moves it.
 - c. The Bible speaks of God opening and closing the womb even beyond the realm of natural occurrence. Remember Abraham and Sarah in the OT. God promised Abraham that he would have a son even though both he and Sarah were in their late years. Gen 18:11 says that Sarah was old and advanced in years and the way of women has ceased to be with her. Then in 21:1-2 the Bible says the Lord visited Sarah and did what He had promised and Sarah conceived and bore a son. The same thing happens in the NT in Luke with Zechariah and Elizabeth and the birth of John the Baptist. Elizabeth was known to be barren and yet God brought about His will and she became pregnant and gave birth to John, who prepared the way for Christ.
 - d. Nature is the means, but God is the author. Each life that is conceived in the womb is created, and God is its Creator.

II. Life Created Has a Divine Purpose (v14)

- a. You are not an accident. Life is not an accident. You may have been conceived out of wedlock. You may have been born in less than desirable circumstances, but the circumstances surrounding your conception and your birth have no bearing on your significance and meaning and purpose.
- b. You have been created by God, therefore you have divine purpose. Your life is meaningful. You have been given the gift of life. It has been granted to you by God to live and breathe and experience and grow. You were created by God in His image. You bear His image, you were created to reflect His glory.
- c. I praise you because I was fearfully and wonderfully made by You! Your purpose is to glorify God because He designed you to enjoy Him and know Him and worship Him! He made you in His image. You have the distinct imprint of God upon your life – no other creation bears the image of God, only human beings.
- d. Our purpose is not us. No, we have a greater purpose, a higher purpose, a grander purpose for this life and in this life – our purpose is God – and we know it down in our very soul.
- e. Every life is created – that includes those born with disabilities, we call them disabilities, God uses them to show that all His works are wonderful. Every life is created, therefore every life has divine purpose.

III. Life Created Has a Unique, God-given Role (15)

- a. That speaks to just how involved God is in creating you, and it also speaks to just how individual and unique God has created you. You are the only you in the entire world, and God made you that way, because He has a place for you in this world and in His kingdom that only you can fill. Only you can serve God the way you serve God. Only you can glorify God the way you glorify God. Only you can worship God the way you worship God because only you are you.
- b. Isn't diversity wonderful! Smart phones use facial recognition technology because you have a certain, specific look. Aren't you glad you don't all look like this?!? You can be identified by your finger prints because you are the only one on the globe with that set of finger prints! Amazing. Created. Purpose. Design. Unique.

- c. Right down to your personality, your gifts, your desires, your talents, your good works – God intricately made you in the secret place of the womb so that you would glorify Him in the open place of the world. God at work in the womb has a place for you in the world.
- IV. Life Created Has a Divine Author (v16)
- a. Isn't that an amazing thought. God knows precisely and exactly how many days we will live here before we stand before Him there.
 - b. He's not only the author of the beginning, He's the author of the middle and the end. Your life has been written out by the hand and will of God. We are not the authors of our lives. We are not the captain of our souls. God is. And that's why He puts all the things in our lives He puts there, good and bad, that we might know Him, see Him, love Him, and enjoy Him.
 - c. I love what Moses prays in Psalm 91 – teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom

Conclusion - You are here today to hear this sermon on the sanctity of life because God is the author of your life. You are not an accident. This day is not an accident. And you being here is not an accident.