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The God-centeredness of Life; Jeremiah 1:5

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Introduction - On Jan 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court decided that a woman's right to privacy under the 14 amendment extended to include a woman's decision to have an abortion. Such a decision failed to consider the massive consequences that would follow such as:

1. Abortion on demand totally dismisses the right to life for the unborn baby within the mother's womb.
2. Abortion on demand attempts to draw an arbitrary line between viability outside the womb at 7 months and unviability previous to 7 months, which inevitably has to argue to life is not life until it reaches what we decide is viability. And yet if a pregnant woman is murdered at 6 months of pregnancy and she wanted her child, 2 murders have occurred, not just one.
3. Life is now determined by whether or not the mother wishes to have the child, rather than clear, undeniable scientific evidence. It is ironic in an age that denies God and hails science will reject science when it gets in the way of agenda.
4. Abortion advocates claim to trumpet the rights of women when in actuality the rights of women pressured by boyfriends and parents to abort have been trampled. What about the rights of all the women who have been aborted?
5. It also failed to consider the post-abortive trauma and guilt that both mothers and fathers would endure for a lifetime. There is no way to measure the physical, mental, relational, and emotional damage of decades of abortions.
6. It failed to consider that selective abortions that have nothing to do with rape or incest or the health of the mother would dramatically increase. Basically, if a child is not exactly perfect or will increase the parent's responsibility to care and love that child or is not the preferred gender or infringes upon the parents' lifestyle and plans, he is deemed not worthy of life.
7. It failed to understand that while pro-abortion ideology tries to cover the darkness by using terms like "reproductive health," "women's health," "sexual health," and "women's rights," when you look into the womb and see those little hands and hear that little heart, it's still wrong to take that life no matter what you call it.

The result of such a wrong-headed, wrong-reasoned decision has been the death of over 60 million boys and girls since 1973. Life has been grossly devalued upon the altars of convenience and privacy. The death toll attributed to Roe v Wade is simply staggering. When 6 million Jews were killed under Nazi Germany, we called it the holocaust. What do you call it when 60 million humans have been intentionally terminated?

That is why today is Sanctity of Life Sunday. Every year, near the anniversary date of Roe v Wade, those who affirm life will speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. We will never tire of standing for life. We will never tire of rescuing babies. We will never tire of educating moms and dads about the precious life in the womb. We will never tire of offering hope, healing, and forgiveness in Jesus Christ for the living victims of this modern day holocaust.

In light of the loss of 60 million precious, innocent boys and girls, what can we do? First, we turn to Scripture and today study Jeremiah 1:5.

I. Life is an Act of Almighty God

A) V5 is set within the context of the Lord's call upon Jeremiah's life to be His prophet, His spokesman to the nations. The fact that God told Jeremiah these things about his calling in life would prove to sustain Jeremiah in the grueling days of opposition and persecution and suffering that he was going to face.

B) However, while God is telling Jeremiah these things to call him and sustain him in his life's vocation, are these insights into God's role in life only applicable to Jeremiah? Surely not. God is not telling Jeremiah that He acts this way only in the case of Jeremiah. Is Jeremiah the only individual God has known before conception? Absolutely not. God knows the number of our days before there even is one. Is Jeremiah the only individual God formed in the womb? Absolutely not. David sings in Psalm 139:13 that God formed him in his mother's womb.

C) So while God is telling Jeremiah, "This is how I have dealt with you," it is in fact how God deals with all life. Our purpose today is to extract the universal lessons of life from the individual calling of Jeremiah.

D) Our first observation is that life is a miracle of God, an act of Almighty God. Therefore, it is never a mistake, a coincidence, an accident, or without meaning and purpose. God gives life. "I formed you."

1. Now He does so through the means of procreation, but that does not mean we are in charge of what is life and what is not life or what life deserves to live and what life does not. God allows us to be involved in His miraculous work of life as instruments to bring about His purpose. Just as God involves us in the creating of new life by sharing the gospel, He also involves us in the creating of life. We don't take credit when God recreates someone even though He involves us, and we don't take credit when God creates someone even though He involves us.

E) Notice that God takes full credit for the formation of Jeremiah in the womb! When we begin to talk genetics and genetic altering and when we peer into the womb through technology, we are peeking into God's secret laboratory of life! Scientific advance in these areas is not meant to invade God's workplace; it is meant to celebrate God's workplace. 3D ultrasound technology allows us to watch God work! He does the forming for His pleasure and purposes. When we study the genetic makeup of the father and the genetic makeup of the mother, it is not so as to determine if the child is worthy of life or not. It is an insight into what God is doing. Scientific advance is meant to improve the life and chances for that child in the womb, not in order to determine whether or not to end it. We're just meant to gaze in wonder, prepare for this little one, and give praise to God that he has given life! Whether that life be 3 minutes or 80 years.

F) Notice that God's work in Jeremiah's life began even before conception. Now this is truly mind-boggling. God knew Jeremiah even before there was a Jeremiah. What does that mean? Before Jeremiah literally existed through conception, God had sovereignly determined who he was going to be and when he was going to be born. Every single person conceived in this world is known by God, created in the image of God, under the loving, watchful, purposeful eye of God. Life is never an accident. Every instance of life is actually, divinely, premeditated! That means every life is precious and has tremendous meaning, value, and purpose. Conception never takes God by surprise nor does it simply just naturally occur through natural process.

G) God is sovereign over life and He is sovereign over the womb and He is sovereign over conception because He is good and wise and has good purposes for everything He does. God says to the womb, "Not now. Not now." And He says to the womb, "Now!" And when He says "Not now" and when He says "Now" He is being good.

H) Just consider this: God knew you even before your parents knew there was even a you to know.

II. Life is a Gift from the Loving God

A) Consecrated means set apart for special purpose and reason. It means God destined Jeremiah to be Jeremiah the prophet. He endowed him with the personality and the heart and the mind and the disposition that would collaborate together, producing the perfect combination to serve as a prophet of God. Strengths that would give voice to the words of God and weaknesses that would keep Jeremiah dependent on God. He consecrated him before he was born.

B) What does this mean for us? God determines life - everything from birthdate to location to vocation to how we fit in the grand scheme of things to bring Him glory and for our joy.

C) The fact that God determines our lives and destines our lives means that God cares a great deal about our lives. He loves us. That's why He consecrates us. He forms our features to magnify His beauty. He crafts our personalities and dispositions and strengths and weaknesses that we might glorify Him in all things. He takes great care and interest over every single fabric and point of our lives because He loves us. III. The difference we notice in our children

D) That's why we are so watchful over our children isn't it? We don't parent in order to control. We parent in order to shape. And because He is God, wouldn't He do more?

E) Nothing in your life is accidental. Before you were born, God consecrated you for His glory and for your good. Life, all of it, is a gift of God to be cherished and received, not discarded.

III. Life is Meant for the Glory of God

A) Jeremiah, as a prophet, would glorify God by giving the word of God to the nations. It was a word of coming judgment. It was a word that went unheeded. Yet, his life and his words are still going to the nations. Why even today we are reading Jeremiah!

B) God has appointed your station in life for the very same purpose. Whether you are a homemaker, a student, an entrepreneur, an educator, a supervisor, laborer, whatever you do and wherever you are - God has you there to magnify the worth of His Son! Your life is essential, meaningful, and full purpose. Your life is significant in the grand scheme of creating the fabric that will result in the everlasting glory of the Son of God.

Conclusion - Now back to our question of what can we do? Get involved in, support, and volunteer at our local pregnancy center, Options Medical. Reach out to unwed, troubled, pregnant mothers. Reach out to those

hurting from abortion. Teach our children about life. Vote for life. Pray.
Choose life. And if you have had an abortion, the answer to your questions
and guilt and pain and future is Jesus Christ!