

Sanctity of Human Life

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

Hearts are breaking around the world as news streams flow in via network television and Internet about the tragedy that recently rocked Haiti. Myriads of lives are devastated today due to this overwhelming catastrophe. In the midst of the turmoil, compassion runs thick as help is pouring in from across the globe. As funds are funneled into relief organizations and supplies are loaded onto ships and airplanes, many people have renewed their purpose in prayer. The poorest country in this hemisphere is struck with a gut-wrenching blow, and yet there is hope because humanity is rallying in an expression of tangible love. Make no mistake! God is at work!

On various continents, homicide, genocide, human trafficking, and many forms of victimizations occur regularly. And in the midst of evil, heroes emerge to intervene and stand for righteousness, social justice, and the value of a human life, sometimes at the expense of one's own shed blood. And God continues to move among people.

Approximately one million innocent babies are slaughtered each year in the billion-dollar abortion industry. In the face of a war over ideas, individuals take a stand on conviction for the sacredness of the unborn life. And yet, minds are renewed regularly, and regret triggered despondency finds healing everyday in the grace of Jesus. Miracles happen, hardened hearts soften, one life is extinguished and another is saved. And God's mercy touches and heals today.

A handicapped girl is snuggled by her mother as her father caresses her hand and kisses her forehead. He looks to his wife with a gentle gaze as though reminiscing how their greatest fear turned into the biggest blessing. They know their whole family was saved because of her. Classmates cheer as they sing her a Happy Birthday melody. Those that don't understand her worth as a person would have had her snuffed out before a real start had begun. Others attempt to legislate away her rights as a person. But God is in the midst of the questions and confusion, ready to shine a light through a least likely lamp.

About half way down the hallway through a door on the left lays a man that sometimes annoys his neighbors. He complains about the food and bends the ears of all the nurses with stories of a bygone era. He doesn't seem to have any family for no one comes to see him. His only visitor arrives each Sunday faithfully, right after church. As the fateful day arrives that would

be his last, the doctors inform this steadfast friend of his expected soon departure. The physician is shocked to learn that the two hardly even know each other. "Why do you come here every week if you don't really even know the man?" he wondered. "Because I heard that there was a man here who didn't have any friends," the visitor replied, "and the Bible teaches us to be a friend to the friendless." This man needed a friend and Jesus sent one of His.

This week is celebrated by millions in commemoration of the Sanctity of Human Life. The Bible teaches that every life is precious and each human is created in the image of God. We do not have the luxury to only love people who love us in return or agree with our positions on things. Jesus said that this is what false religious systems offer. God asks us to love all people, even those who don't like us. Let's model our choices after the one that Jesus made, for He demonstrated his belief that the human race is full of people worth saving. No wonder we call Him the Savior.

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:45am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

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