

# ***Protecting Human Life Begins with Family and Ends with Civil Government on Human Level***

*by Thomas W. Jacobson (6 December 2013)*

In the heart of Father God, the Creator, every human life is of inestimable value, conceived in His mind before being conceived in the womb. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5; see Ephesians 1:4). He cherishes each one of us in spite of our sins and failures. He pursues us to our dying breath to be reconciled with Him, and then to spend eternity with Him in heaven. He gave the incomparable gift of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, to pay our debts and restore us to Him.

Family: On a human level, cherishing and protecting human life begins in the hearts of a man and woman *before* their child is conceived. If a husband and wife prepare their hearts to receive each child the Lord gives them, respond with joy when they discover the child has been conceived in the wife’s womb, welcome him at birth, teach him about the love and ways of God, discipline him, and love him all the days of his life, then the child has the best opportunity to know he is loved.

Church: Living in a fallen world, many children don’t know they are loved; sadly some are not loved by their parents. But all are loved! (Matthew 19:13-15; John 3:16) God our Father is perfect in His love toward us, and conveys His love and commandments through His people, the Church. Next to the family and in support of parents, the Church is the best place for anyone to learn about the love of God, the inherent value He places on their lives, and our ultimate accountability to Him and His standards (Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:1-17; II Corinthians 5:10-11; Hebrews 9:27-28).

If pastors in every church across our nation would each year teach their congregations from the Scriptures about God creating each person in their mother’s womb, and giving them a destiny (Ephesians 2:10); and God’s people upheld that truth in culture (John 18:37; I Timothy 3:15), the results should be marvelous: (1) each person would know they are loved and that God has a purpose for their life; (2) each baby would be cherished from conception; and (3) abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia could not long remain legal.

Individual: A person raised in a loving home and church, who also reverently fears God, is equipped to cherish and protect human life, and can be an instrument to do so in their spheres of influence and responsibility.

Schools/Community: The starting point for schools is to recognize and teach that each person is created “in the image of God,” and accountable to Him (Genesis 1:27; Revelation 14:6-7). They should reject and remove false teachings, such as the theory of evolution, which has no basis in reality or scientific fact, and which leaves students without a true understanding of their identity and value, and without fixed standards for life. A person who believes in evolution has no intrinsic basis for valuing human life. With this teaching mandated in government schools in the United States (and other

nations), it is no surprise that over 1 million babies are aborted each year, 85 percent by unmarried girls and women, of whom 49 percent are age 24 or under.<sup>1</sup>

One of the best ways that communities have responded to protect human life is by creating pregnancy resource centers. There are 2,400 across the United States, offering help and encouragement to girls, women, and fathers without charge.

Civil Government: To have a civil government that cherishes and protects human life, from conception or fertilization to natural death, the following are required:

1. A constitution and laws that contain precise provisions to accomplish this purpose;
2. Citizens who choose candidates who believe in the inherent value of human life;
3. Government legislators, officials, judges, and police who will make or enforce righteous laws and judgments protecting human life; and
4. Enforced laws prohibiting abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia.

Last week, I held the infant son of my oldest nephew, a gift from heaven of supreme delight to his parents. This week, a good friend died. I'm grieving, while savoring the memory of a life well lived: a God-fearing man who loved and served his family and others to the end.

A community and nation can be transformed if we each value life and do our part. Life should be cherished from the moment of conception or fertilization to natural death.

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All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible.

<sup>1</sup> "MMWR: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report," Surveillance Summaries, Vol. 61, No. 8, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Nov. 23, 2012), Tables 3, 17.