

A Christian Case for Being Pro-Life

Selected Scriptures

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I. Supremely Important

II. A Christian Case for Being Pro-Life

A. God is Life (Jn 1:4; 5:26; Acts 17:28; 1 Jn 3:14-15)

First, *God is life itself*. He is its origin and source. No man gives to Him, but He gives life to all: “*for in Him we live and move and have our being...*” (Acts 17:28). Theologians call this God’s _____ – His independence or self-existence.

Hence, to be near God is life and to move away from Him is death. He is life itself and we cannot have life without Him. God spoke to Israel:

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶*in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.* ¹⁷*But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,* ¹⁸*I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.* ¹⁹*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;* ²⁰*that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”* (Dt 30:15–20)

Separation from God means separation from all that is good, true, and beautiful. Hence, those who worship idols *become like them* – dead and lifeless (cf. Ps 115:4-8). Conversely, Jesus has come that we “*might have life and have it abundantly*” (Jn 10:10). How does He achieve this? He achieves this by redeeming us – rescuing us from idolatry, from sin, and from death and bringing us back to God, back to life. “*He who has the Son has life and he that does not have the Son does not have life*” (Jn 5:24).

B. God gives Life (Ps 36:9; Jn 1:3-4; Ac 17:25; Ro 11:36; 1 Tim 6:13)

Second, God gives life. All life is a gift from Him. “*For with You is the fountain of life...*” (Ps 36:9a). The Apostle John speaks of Jesus, “*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*” (Jn 1:4). As Paul declared, God “*gives to all life, breath, and all things*” (Acts 17:25).

1. Life is basic to the world, not death (Ps 127:3)

The creation as it spun forth from the Creator’s hands was full of life. Hence, _____ is basic to the world, not death. Death is an abnormality, an intrusion into the world. W.B. Wallis writes: “*In Mesopotamia man was thought to have been created mortal, so that death was the natural result of his constitution; in Israel he was believed to have been created for never-ending life, wherefore death was something unnatural...*” (ZPED, “Life”, 928).

2. Human life is unique (Job 33:4; Ps 139:13-16)

Human life images God's own life. We are made in the image of God. Elihu declares, *"The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life"* (33:4). Human life is different from the life that God grants to all other creatures; it is sacred.

¹³*For 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. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your 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.*

_____ is the unlawful taking of a human life. It is to murder a child who is made in the image and likeness of God.

C. God sustains Life (Ps 27:1; Neh 9:6; Col 1:17)

Third, God *"gives us life and breath and all things"* (Acts 17:25). Apart from His sustaining hand, we all would perish. David confesses, *"The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"* (Psalm 27:1) And Paul declares of our Lord Jesus Christ, *"He is before all things, and in Him all things _____"* (Col 1:17). The Triune God sustains all life.

D. God governs Life (Gen 38:7, 10; Dt 32:39; 1 Kgs 14:13; Ps 116:15)

Fourth, *God governs life*. God is *the _____ of life*. In the context of our fallen world, God not only grants life, He also takes it as He sees fit. God declares through Moses, *"Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand"* (Dt 32:39). Psalm 104 sings:

²⁷*These all look to you, to give them their food in due season. ²⁸When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. ²⁹When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³⁰When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.* (Ps 104:27-30)

E. God protects Innocent Life (Gen 9:6; Ex 21:12-36)

Fifth, God protects innocent life. He can take it when He chooses; we may take it only at His command. The sixth commandment commands, *"You shall not murder"* (Ex 20:13). Human life is sacred; it may not be taken unjustly (cf. Gen 9:6). So Moses writes:

¹²*"Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. ¹³But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. ¹⁴But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.* (Ex 21:12-14)

God likewise expects civil societies to protect the lives of pregnant mothers and their unborn children. Moses writes:

²²*"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, ²⁴eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.* (Ex 21:22-24)

III. Conclusion (cf. 2 Tim 1:10)