

# The Sacredness of Life

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**The Big Idea:** God's love for humankind makes human life sacred and compels us (as His beloved image-bearers) to embody His love in the world.

*So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* Genesis 1:27 (New Revised Standard Version)

*Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.* Romans 5:7-8 (NRSV)

## 1) Every human life, every heartbeat, is **sacred** to God.

*. . . Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.* Jeremiah 22:3 (English Standard Version)

*For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.* Psalm 139:13 (NRSV)

*For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval;<sup>4</sup> for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.* Romans 13:3-4 (NRSV)

## 2) God cares about **the quality** of our lives too.

*The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.<sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.<sup>14</sup> In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap.* Psalm 92:12-14 (NRSV)

*If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?<sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead"* James 2:15-17 (NRSV)

*They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.* Matthew 23:4 (NRSV)

## **A Practical Process**

- 1) Identify what we have to offer (skills, resources, etc.)
- 2) Explore what we can do with what we have
- 3) Invite others to join us
- 4) Help people move from need to abundance

### **3) Decreased quality of life does not justify ending one's own (or another's) life.**

*. . . "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Job 1:21 (NSRV)*

### **4) God walks with us in the gray.**

## **Tips**

- 1) Become people of prayer.
- 2) It's not about ideas — it's ALWAYS about people God loves.
- 3) Embodying God's love begins with seeing the sacredness of another's life.
- 4) Every person needs a people.