

The Unfruitful Works of Darkness and the Sanctity of Human Life

Ephesians 5:11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Jan 19, 2020

I. The Sanctity of Human Life is deeply rooted in the Word of God.

A. From the very beginning, we stand out from the rest of creation.

Gen. 1:26,27 - ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

1. We're the only ones created with a convo ("*Let Us...*").
2. We're the only ones created through a process ("*Let Us make...*")
3. We're the only ones created with a personal touch ("*in Our image*").
 - a) **mentally** - we can reason & make choices
 - b) **morally** - created in righteousness & holiness
 - c) **socially** - created for fellowship

The dignity of every human being comes from the fact that we are like God.

B. From our very beginning, God is personally involved with our lives.

Psa. 139:13-18 - ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your 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. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

1. Even in the womb, God is present and working intentionally, slowly, carefully knitting us together (Psa. 139:13).
2. Even in the womb, we are declared to be "wonderful" (Psa. 139:14).
3. David credits his earliest moments and the entire plan for his life to God Himself (Psa. 139:16).

C. You were valuable before you could do anything, even before you were born.

Jeremiah 1:5 - ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Luke 1:41 - ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit...

Luke 1:30-33 - ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive **in your womb and bear a son**, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² **He** will be great and will be called the **Son** of the Most High. And the Lord God will give **to him** the throne of his father David, ³³ and **he will reign** over the house of Jacob forever, and of **his kingdom** there will be no end.”

II. Christians need to not participate in and stand against the dignity-denying issues of our day and age. Indifference is not an option.

Eph. 5:11 - ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

A. As pro-life Christians, we need to be different than the culture in which we live, even and especially if it causes us to stand out among our “tribe.”

We need to care about **racism**...because thinking of someone as “less” because of their ethnicity heaps insult on God Whose image s/he bears.

We need to care about **abortion**...because babies and mothers are made in the image of God.

We need to care about **pornography**...because it’s never a victimless crime as imagebearers are devalued, used and consumed.

We need to care about **immigration & refugees**, acknowledging it’s a very complex situation, and everyone involved bears the image of God.

B. As pro-life Christians, we need to do our part in exposing the deeds of darkness.

- a. **Pray** for the people and situations for which you have no details or firsthand knowledge. You know they bear the image of God.
- b. **Welcome correction** from each other when you start to act or sound more like someone in the dark than one who has the light of Christ.
- c. **Learn by listening and reading** about people and situations you have no firsthand knowledge of.
- d. **Look for opportunities** to advocate for the most vulnerable among us and share the love and hope of Christ.

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- (1) When Pastor Peter reviewed the creation of Adam & Eve, what stood out to you for the first time? What was helpful to be reminded of?
- (2) Pastor Peter said “You were valuable before you did anything.” Why is this important to remember personally? Why is it important to remember about others?
- (3) Review Eph. 5:11. What unfruitful works or conversations do you need to not take part in so you can highly value other image-bearers?
- (4) Pray and ask God if there are works of darkness He’s calling you to expose for His glory and the good of others.