

As a Christian, what do you think about...

Killing someone in self-defense?

Capital punishment?

Euthanasia?

Abortion?

How does your faith impact your views on those subjects?

Read **1 John 3:11-18**.

What was Cain's motivation in killing Abel?

When we are living "righteous" lives, that is, lives that are different from the culture around us, why would people hate us?

Do we see that anywhere in the world today?

In verse 15, we see hate again equated with murder. What does such hatred reveal about a person's inner life?

In verses 16-18, John describes how we ought to live if we have the life of Jesus in us. What does that look like?

Read **Matthew 5:43-48**.

What is our attitude to be toward our enemies?

How does loving and praying for our enemies express the heart of God?

Grace Notes

Series: **10**

Message: **Value Life**

Scripture: Exodus 20:13

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2015

Thou shalt not kill. (KJV)

You shall not murder. (NIV)

The Hebrew word translated "kill" or "murder" in Exodus 20:13 means to unlawfully and immorally taking the life of another person.

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' (an Aramaic term of contempt) is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."
(Matthew 5:21-22)

The image of God in each person is enough reason for us to care for the lives and well-being of others. And God's great sacrifice in Jesus Christ should be enough for us to value both the life and eternity of each person.

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HOW CAN WE VALUE LIFE?

Actively stand against the devaluing of life whether it is the unborn or the elderly.

Be careful to guard your heart and your words.

Work to end atrocities such as sex slavery, child and spousal abuse, racism, drug trafficking, and a whole host of other social evils.

Pray for our governmental leaders but do not rely only on them to bring about change.

Teach your children and grandchildren how precious life is and how much God loves all people.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."
(John 11:25-26)

Study Questions

In your own words...

- Define Life _____
- Define Living _____

How do these two terms differ, if at all.

In what ways does our society devalue life?

What can individual families do to combat this?

What can the church do to combat the devaluing of life?

Thinking back to Sunday's message—Was there anything that challenged you, convicted you, or comforted?
Did you learn anything new?
Did it impact your life in any way?

Re-read **Matthew 5:21-22**.

When Jesus mentions being angry with a brother or sister as breaking the sixth commandment, how are we to interpret this?

Why is unresolved anger and bitterness so devastating in family life, in church life, or in any relationship you have?

Jesus warns against using terms of contempt or belittling. Why is this such a big deal to Jesus?

How does this fit in with breaking the sixth commandment?

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