



January 20, 2019
“Sanctity of Human Life”
Jeremiah 18 - 19
Pastor Gary Hamrick

All human life is precious and valuable to God. The value of human life is not determined by ethnicity, race or gender; nor by age, ability or background. The value of human life is determined solely on the basis that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and that every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth. For that reason, we should protect and defend life from the womb to the tomb. Pastor Gary spoke on this 2019 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, about the tender topic of abortion with truth and grace from a biblical perspective, and he shared the personal story of a woman whose testimony will encourage those who need to know that there is grace and forgiveness for everyone.

Sanctity Of Human Life

1. Pastor Gary read an excerpt from President Reagan’s 1984 proclamation and President Trump’s 2019 proclamation. (See below)
2. Pastor Gary said: “The sanctity of human life extends to all of humanity, but the most vulnerable of humanity are the pre-born. Because of the legalization of abortion, the pre-born or the unborn literally have no rights and no protection. It was once said by someone that the most dangerous place to be [was] in your mother’s womb. I’m going to tenderly and truthfully deal with this subject today, not so much as a rant against abortion - although I am unequivocally pro-life, and that’s because I believe that God values and cherishes human life that he has created - but rather I’m going to place an emphasis more so on what I just said. [God] values human life that he has created in his image, in his likeness, and that every person from conception to natural death possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth, including pre-born children, the elderly, those with special needs or disabilities, those who are terminally ill [who] are afraid of being a burden

to others, or those who are marginalized in some other way by society. Men, women, youth, and children, including the pre-born children, should be respected regardless of their mental capacity, physical ability, or social standing. Value is not determined by ethnicity, race or gender, nor by age, ability or background, but by the sole fact that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God.”

God Is The Potter - We Are The Clay

3. **Jeremiah 18:6** - “ ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?’ declares the LORD. ‘Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’ ”
4. **Isaiah 64:8** - “Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”
5. God sent Jeremiah many times to give a message for the Lord, but this time Jeremiah was sent to get a message from the Lord.
 - a. **Jeremiah 18:2** - “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.”

We Are All The Design Of The Potter

6. **Jeremiah 18:3** - “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.” (NKJV)
7. We have no choice or say regarding when we are born, the country or town in which we are born, the circumstances into which we are born, when we are born, or to which family/parents we are born, but all of us were planned by God.
8. Pastor Gary said: “All of us were planned by God, because God is the author of life. No life is an accident, [mistake], or is unwanted to God. ... We are created in the image and likeness of our Father in heaven. We are the design of the potter, and thus, every human birth is designed by God in a miraculous way. When a single sperm unites with a single egg and conception begins, a single cell is produced. And that single cell begins to divide and divide until the average adult body contains 70 trillion cells! ... Do you know that you have about 100 billion cells in your brain? ... [There are] 206 bones, 600 muscles, and 93,000 miles of blood vessels in every human being! It’s amazing... to think of the designer behind it all. ... [The] human body and the complexity of it all is a testimony that every single one of us was the Divine design of the potter.”
 - a. **Psalms 139:16** - “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

- b. [Genesis 1:27](#) - *“So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*
- c. “After several years of spending full time studying the human body, I have to agree with the words recorded in the holy writings of the Jews and Christians: [‘For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.’ ” [Psalm 139:13-14](#). - Dr. Phillip Bishop ¹

We Are All Marred, But We Are Not Abandoned By The Potter

- 9. [Jeremiah 18:4](#) - *“But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.”*
- 10. Pastor Gary said: “We are marred. We are sinful people. We’ve done things against God that have dishonored him, [we’ve] sinned against him, [and] we are guilty before God. We are clay that is marred, out of balance, [and] sinful, but instead of abandoning us, what does God do? He just reshapes us [and] reworks us. [When] God reworks us, it doesn’t feel good. ... [The] good news is that he doesn’t give up on us because he continues to mold us and to conform us into the image of his son. ... [God] expressed his love to us supremely by the death of Jesus Christ on a cross for all [of the] sins that have marred us. ... He shapes us rather than breaks us, because we are all marred, but we are not abandoned by the potter. ... God is so tender with us; he knows just how to handle us...”
 - a. [Hebrews 13:5](#) - *“... ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ ”*
 - b. [Jeremiah 31:3](#) - *“... I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.’ ”*

We Are All Valuable In The Eyes Of The Potter

- 11. [Jeremiah 18:4](#) - *“... shaping it as seemed best to him.”*
- 12. Pastor Gary said: “[God worked] on the vessel to bring about a perfected vessel for his glory, because of the value [he] sees in it.
 - a. [Ephesians 2:10](#) - *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*
 - i. The Greek word for workmanship is poiema, which means work of art.
 - ii. Every human bears the signature, so to speak, of the Creator.
 - iii. We are God’s work of art and we have immeasurable value and worth!
- 13. Pastor Gary said: “I’m going to say something that maybe you haven’t thought of before. I’m convinced in the whole abortion debate one of the reasons why some

¹ <http://www.leaderu.com/science/bishop.html>

people are pro-abortion is because they have also believed a lie, [which is] the pro-evolutionary theory. And the reason I think those two go hand-in-hand is because when you remove God from the equation of life and you just resign yourself to think: 'I don't really think there's a creator behind all of this and I think we just all originated as pond scum, and then we eventually sprouted legs and crawled out of the pond. And over millions of years we learned to stand upright, and we eventually got clothes and a job.' ... If you remove the creator from the equation of creation, then you have diminished the value of human life, and no longer is life seen as something that is valuable and something created and designed with a purpose and a plan. [Now] life has just been reduced to something is dispensable [or] accidental [or] it's biological matter. I tell you, not so! The fact of the matter is that what God has designed is his work of art in the life of every human being. [We], likewise, should cherish [life] and value [life] because God does. Without recognizing the creator, the created has no value or purpose. ... God goes back before conception in every human life, and not just for Jeremiah! ... God's design for humanity is that through the exercise of faith we might trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and he, in his foreknowledge, understood, even before we were conceived, who would receive him and accept him and [he] wrote our names in his book before creation."

- a. **Jeremiah 1:5** - *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; and I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*
- b. **Revelation 17:8b** - *"... [names were] written in the book of life from the creation of the world..."*
- c. The pro-abortion argument contends that life begins at birth, but rightly so, the pro-life argument affirms biblical truth; in that life begins at conception.

The Valley Of Slaughter

14. **Jeremiah 19:1-6** - *"This is what the LORD says: 'Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom, near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. There proclaim the words I tell you, and say, "Hear the word of the LORD, O Kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle. For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned sacrifices in it to gods that neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent. They have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as offerings to Baal - something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind. So beware, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter." "*

15. The imagery of pottery continues in Jeremiah 19, but it reveals judgment that will come because of turning to idols and false gods.
- The neighboring pagan nations surrounding Israel worshiped Baal, Molech, Asherah, and Chemosh, and the Israelites embraced the worship of these idols for approximately 300 years.
 - Molech was the god of the Ammonites.
 - Molech had the head of a bull and the body of a human being.²
 - Pastor Gary described the way people would sacrifice their infants on the outstretched arms of the idol, which were white-hot.
16. **Jeremiah 19:6** - *"... people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter."*
- The Israelites played drums loudly in an attempt to drown out the screams of the dying infants.
 - God said it was going to be called the Valley of Slaughter so they would never forget the horrific depths to which they had sunk.
 - Today, this area is called Valley of the Children.

The Face Of Grace

17. Pastor Gary said: "It's easy to read these stories and dismiss [them] and chalk it up to [the fact that these people were] a bunch of uncivilized, uneducated people who would resort to do such an evil thing, but we're different. All the while, condoning a modern version of it and calling it choice, just because seven out of nine men in black robes decided it was [okay]. And now, since [1973], we have the blood of more than 60 million children on our hands. Nearly one-fourth of this generation never made it out of the womb. ... And as sad and sinful as that is, there's another side of this coin that must not be overlooked. You see, on one side of the coin is truth, that abortion is the taking of a precious and valuable life to God. But on the other side of this coin [is grace]. [The church needs] to be a place of grace and a people of grace for women who have had abortions, and for the men who have been a party to them, so that people can know there is forgiveness and healing through Jesus. In a church this size, I am aware that statistically, there's a significant percentage of women who have had abortions, and men who are party to them. [You] need to hear loudly and clearly that Jesus loves you and Jesus died for all of our sins. All of our sins."
- Proverbs 6:16** - *"There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, **hands that shed innocent blood**, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers."* [Emphasis added]

² <https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/Dictionary/viewTopic.cfm?topic=IT0006125>

- b. [Psalm 103:12](#) – “[As] far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”
- c. “My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my Soul!” – *When Peace Like A River* by Horatio Spafford ³
- d. Horatio Spafford – my sin not in part but the whole was nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.....

18. Pastor Gary read Cynthia Weimerskirch’s testimony concerning her abortion and the way the Lord has ministered forgiveness and healing.

There have been roughly 60 million abortions in the United States since the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade* and I was one of the first young women among them to have a legal abortion in February of 1973.

Pro-Choice activists like to tell you that it’s your choice, your right to make this decision. They like to tell you it is the quick and easy answer to an unexpected pregnancy.

What they don’t like to tell you is what happens after the abortion. Overwhelming guilt and remorse, the chance of becoming infertile, and the destructive behavior patterns that often follow. All leading to unhealthy coping mechanisms, especially when you do not have a relationship with Christ.

I walked into that abortion clinic with life inside of me; I walked out feeling dead inside. The shame I felt from my choice of abortion was like a cloud that constantly hung over me. Nothing could take away the self-loathing and absolute unworthiness I felt towards myself.

I was never the same after that day and for decades I struggled with low self-esteem and with allowing true intimacy into any relationships I had. On the outside I appeared happy, the life of the party, but on the inside, I had a serious heart-wound despite my best efforts to cover it up.

Then by the grace of God He led me to this church and to Pastor Gary’s sound teaching. I finally discovered what it meant to have a relationship with Christ not a religion; that the Bible is the living, breathing Word of God; and that Jesus died on a cross taking the penalty of my sin, “my choice”, upon His shoulders.

But even after learning all these truths I still felt like a second-class Christian. So, I tried to hide the persistent feelings of unworthiness through works. I volunteered in every area of service thinking that somehow, I could pay off this heavy debt.

³ https://hymnary.org/text/when_peace_like_a_river_attendeth_my_way

It took going through a healing Bible study called *Surrendering the Secret* to finally open my eyes and heart to receive the healing that Christ had already given me.

During those eight weeks of the Bible study God led me to some pretty dark places that I would have rather kept in the recesses of my mind. But He showed me that in order for me to move forward I had to go back and look at all of it through the perspective of His eyes. He gently and tenderly walked me to a place of greater peace and acceptance of His gift of grace and mercy.

The Lord tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 that He knows the plans He has for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

What's the hope that God gave me according to His purpose by calling me to this healing journey?

I never would have come to know on a level that runs so deep and profound what Jesus really did for me on that cross. Had I not gone through this healing experience from the Lord I never would have truly known the depths of His love.

Only Jesus could set me free from the shame, the guilt, and the regret of my past. Along with that freedom, Christ's sacrifice has even purchased for me a reunion with my child in heaven one day—a gift I surely do not deserve. Yet it is the gift of love and forgiveness that Christ poured out on Calvary for all who would believe and receive.

Signed,
Cynthia Weimerskirch

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Jeremiah 18:1-6](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and spend time talking about the remarks Pastor Gary made concerning the sanctity of life. (See #2 above)
3. What are some of the ways you've seen the Lord molding and shaping you? (See #3 through #5 above)
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments concerning the complexity of God's design. (See #8 above)
5. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's remarks concerning the fact that we are all marred, but we are never abandoned by the Lord. (See #10 above)

6. How would you describe your understanding of the way the Lord values you? (See #12 above)
7. Read and discuss [Jeremiah 1:5](#) and [Revelation 17:8b](#).
8. Allow the people in your group to share their thoughts about Pastor Gary's statement about the correlation between believing the theory of evolution and abortion. (See #13 above)
9. Read and discuss [Jeremiah 19:1-6](#).
10. Pastor Gary emphasized the "Face of Grace" as an important aspect of the topic of abortion.
 - a. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments. (See #17 above)
11. Ask someone to read Cynthia Weimerskirch's personal testimony. (See #18 above)
12. Close your time in prayer and allow the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).

By the President of the United States of America - A Proclamation

The values and freedoms we cherish as Americans rest on our fundamental commitment to the sanctity of human life. The first of the "unalienable rights" affirmed by our Declaration of Independence is the right to life itself, a right the Declaration states has been endowed by our Creator on all human beings-whether young or old, weak or strong, healthy or handicapped.

Since 1973, however, more than 15 million unborn children have died in legalized abortions-a tragedy of stunning dimensions that stands in sad contrast to our belief that each life is sacred. These children, over tenfold the number of Americans lost in all our Nation's wars, will never laugh, never sing, never experience the joy of human love; nor will they strive to heal the sick, or feed the poor, or make peace among nations. Abortion has denied them the first and most basic of human rights, and we are infinitely poorer for their loss.

We are poorer not simply for lives not led and for contributions not made, but also for the erosion of our sense of the worth and dignity of every individual. To diminish the value of one category of human life is to diminish us all. Slavery, which treated Blacks as something less than human, to be bought and sold if convenient, cheapened human life and mocked our dedication to the freedom and equality of all men and women. Can we say that abortion-which treats the unborn as something less than human, to be destroyed if convenient-will be less corrosive to the values we hold dear?

We have been given the precious gift of human life, made more precious still by our births in or pilgrimages to a land of freedom. It is fitting, then, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade that struck down State anti-abortion laws, that we reflect anew on these blessings, and on our corresponding responsibility to guard with care the lives and freedoms of even the weakest of our fellow human beings.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, January 22, 1984, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. **I call upon the citizens of this blessed land to gather on that day in homes and places of worship to give thanks for the gift of life, and to reaffirm our commitment to the dignity of every human being and the sanctity of each human life.** [Emphasis added - Pastor Gary quoted these remarks by President Reagan]

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:24 a.m., January 16, 1984]

[Delivered January 13, 1984 - Proclamation 5147 by President Ronald Reagan]

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Proclamation_5147

Presidential Proclamation on the National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 2019

Today marks the 46th year since the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade*. On this day, National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, we mourn the lives cut short, and the tremendous promise lost, as a result of abortion. As a Nation, we must resolve to protect innocent human life at every stage.

As President, I am committed to defending the Right to Life. During my first week in office, I reinstated the Mexico City Policy, which prevents foreign aid from being used to fund or support the global abortion industry. We are also working to end the abhorrent practice of elective late-term abortion, a practice allowed in only seven countries around the world. [Emphasis added - Pastor Gary quoted these remarks by President Trump]

At home, we have issued a proposed regulation to implement the Title X prohibition on funding programs that include abortion as a method of family planning. I am supporting the effort in the United States Senate to make permanent the Hyde Amendment, which has been added year after year to spending bills and prevents taxpayer funding for abortion. And I have explicitly informed the Congress that I will veto any legislation that weakens existing Federal protections for human life.

My Administration has repeatedly demonstrated its respect for human life and conscience at all stages. We have finalized conscience exemptions from the contraceptive mandate to protect employers like Little Sisters of the Poor from being forced to choose between violating their religious beliefs and shutting their doors. We also increased the child tax credit, making it financially easier for mothers to care for their children after birth, while supporting the loving choices of adoption and foster care.

As the opioid crisis severely affects our country, especially women and babies, we are redoubling our efforts to help children born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. And we must do everything within our power to protect the sanctity of life for the most vulnerable and defenseless among us, including people with disabilities. Americans with disabilities like Down syndrome are an inspiration, and their example of joy and perseverance enriches our lives.

Our Constitution and our laws contain many protections for innocent life, and I have worked hard for the confirmation and appointment of judges — including two outstanding Supreme Court justices — committed to the rule of law.

We commend the pro-life movement for the tremendous efforts it has made to prevent the deaths of innocent unborn children, including through the annual March for Life. For more than 46 years, courageous and faithful citizens, many from college campuses and high schools across our country, have extended big hearts and hands of compassion to young women experiencing unexpected pregnancies. For decades, they have prayed passionately and stood tirelessly for the sanctity of life, speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We honor, too, the many men and women who share the precious gifts of life and family by adopting babies and children, welcoming them into their homes and hearts.

Today, we recommit ourselves to protecting innocent life every day and at every stage. We must continue to be a country that shows respect for the dignity and worth of every person at every stage of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 20, 2019, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Today I call on the Congress to join me in protecting and defending the dignity of every human life, including those not yet born. I call on the American people to continue to care for women in unexpected pregnancies and to support adoption and foster care in a more meaningful way, so every child can have a loving home. And finally, I ask every citizen of this great Nation to listen to the sound of silence caused by a generation lost to us, and then to raise their voices for all those affected by abortion, both seen and unseen. [Emphasis added – Pastor Gary quoted these remarks by President Trump]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.

[Delivered by President Trump on January 18, 2019]

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-national-sanctity-human-life-day-2019/>
