

God is Pro-Life

A Bible Study by Pastor Jim Behringer

The title for this Bible class is both an overstatement and an understatement. It is an overstatement for us to say that God is pro-life, if we identify God's will with the political agenda of the pro-life movement. We will examine that overstatement first. But as we delve into God's pro-life orientation, it would be an understatement to regard God as interested only in preserving life. God is even more pro-life than that!

God might not always be
"pro-life"

FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Malachi 2:16

"I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith."

Deuteronomy 24:1-4

If a man marries a woman who becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, and if after she leaves his house she becomes the wife of another man, and her second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, gives it to her and sends her from his house, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. That would be detestable in the eyes of the LORD. Do not bring sin upon the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Matthew 19:8

"Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is God's attitude toward divorce?
2. When God gave the nation of Israel laws to govern it, what did God command regarding divorce?
3. What does Jesus identify as the reason that God gave Israel divorce laws?
4. What other kinds of sinful behavior might God regulate through earthly laws though His moral forbids such behavior?
5. What purposes might the existence of such laws serve for believers?
6. Agree or Disagree (defend your answer): Since God sometimes uses earthly laws for good purposes, Christians should accept the existence of those laws as His will.



FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

- Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Acts 17:24,25** "The God who made the world and everything in it . . . gives all men life and breath and everything else."
- Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Exodus 20:13** "You shall not murder."
- Genesis 9:6** "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."
- Deuteronomy 32:39** There is no god besides Me. I put to death and I bring to life.
- Psalms 31:15** My times are in Your hands.
- Psalms 116:15** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

7. What do we see about God in the first five passages that shows His concern with this life?
8. What are the limitations to God's concern for the length of our earthly life?

9. We often quote Psalm 31:15 when we speak about a person's birth and death. However, the word "times" refers to more than just those two events (in English as well as David's original words). When we apply this verse to more than birth and death, how does that increase our understanding of how pro-life God is?
10. Agree or Disagree (Defend your answer): God's concern for our lives extends to the insignificant details of each day.



FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.

Job 27:8

For what hope has the godless when he is cut off, when God takes away his life?

Acts 17:26-27

He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

Romans 14:11-12

It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God." So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

11. It is not longevity that is the ultimate "life issue" to God. What is God's greatest concern about human life?
12. What are some ways that this ultimate "life issue" affects other life issues for Christians?

FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Jeremiah 29:11-12

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

John 10:10

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 1:4

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

13. What is God's vision of what life can be?
14. Describe what it means to have life "to the full."

FOR STUDY AND REFLECTION

Job 13:15

Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.

Daniel 3:17-18

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Romans 8:36

“For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

John 14:3

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.”

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

15. In what sense might some people get the impression that God is not pro-life when it comes to human life on earth?

16. In what way is God pro-life in this case?

17. How does this aspect of God’s view of life provide an unexpected twist to the Christian’s view of life?

18. In review of what we’ve talked about, in what three areas of human life is God pro-life?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.