

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What is Your Life?

James 4:13-14

1 What is your life? That's such a basic question, but particularly in our times it needs a clear answer. 2

More than a million abortions are performed in our country each year. 3 In fact, more than 2% of American women, of reproductive age, obtain abortions every year. 4 One quarter of all pregnancies, including miscarriages, are aborted. 5

If God really **doesn't exist and you are simply a product of evolution, then life isn't really very valuable; unless, of course, it is yours! 6**

If God **does exist and His Bible says what He wants you to know about Himself; that He actually created human life, then all human life is valuable and should be respected and preserved! 7**

James, chapter 4, verses 13 and 14 become pretty important when it comes to understanding this question. **Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you**

do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ⁸

The first point the Bible says about this is . . .

I. Life is Sacred

Life is sacred. ⁹

The first reason why is that **life is a creation of God.** ¹⁰

He created vegetation. Genesis, chapter 1, verses 11 and 12, **Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.** ¹¹

He created birds and creatures of the sea. Genesis, chapter 1, verses 20 and 21, **And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” So**

God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ¹²

He created land mammals. Genesis, chapter 1, verses 24 and 25, And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³

Human life is a special creation of God. ¹⁴

God created Adam and Eve. ¹⁵

He took special care and effort to form Adam. Genesis, chapter 2, verse 7 says, . . . the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 16

He took special care and effort to form woman. Genesis, chapter 2, verses 20 through 22, But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 17

In fact, God personally created you! Did you know that? That's right! Psalm, chapter 139, verses 13 through 16 boldly state, 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. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made

in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. 18

The Bible continues to state that **human life is more important than plant and animal life.** 19

That's because we are instructed to eat plants. Genesis, chapter 1, verses 29 and 30, **Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it — I give every green plant for food." And it was so.** 20

That's because we are instructed to eat animals. Genesis, chapter 9, verses 1 through 3, **Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of**

the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

There were restrictions found in the Old Testament about what kind of animals we could eat. ²¹ But, Peter's vision on Simon the Tanner's rooftop made most of those Old Testament food laws obsolete. ¹ In fact, I am only aware of one restriction we have in the New Testament: we are not to eat blood! ²²

The first reference is when Paul and Barnabas asked the church in Jerusalem to write a letter instructing them concerning some of the first Gentiles (non-Jewish people) who became believers. ² ²³ The second

¹ Acts 10:9-16.

² Acts 15:29 - You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

reference was a reminder of that letter after Paul's mission journeys.³ ²⁴

The second point the Bible says about this is . . .

II. Life has Value

Life has value. Because that is true, there are several conclusions you should come to.²⁵

Therefore, **you should not commit murder!** Where does the Bible say that? The Ten Commandment; number six!²⁶ **You shall not murder.**⁴ ²⁷

Lord Jesus took this principle of respect for human life even further. **You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.” But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But**

³ As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.

⁴ Exodus 20:13.

anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.⁵ 28

Therefore, **you are to care for your physical body.** This is logical for two important reasons. 29 So that you will have a maximum number of productive years to serve the Lord. 30 Also, so that you can show respect for your Creator by taking care of His creation. 31

Therefore, **you are to share your life and possessions with others whom God created.** 32

Therefore, **you are to procreate children.** Genesis, chapter 1, verse 28 says, **God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it ...** 33

The third point the Bible says about this is . . .

⁵ Matthew 5:21-22.

III. Life has Purpose

Life has purpose. ³⁴

God created you to serve and have fellowship with Him. Genesis, chapter 3, verses 8 and 9, Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” Apparently, it was the habit for Adam, Eve and God to visit with one another regularly in the Garden of Eden. When Adam and Eve didn’t show up one afternoon, God called out, “Where are you!” ³⁵

God created you to develop spiritual fruit. Galatians, chapter 5, verses 22 and 23 give us a partial list of that fruit, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ³⁶

The third purpose is that **God created you to share Him with others.** The Great Commission from Matthew, chapter 28, says, **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

God wants everybody to be saved. He wants all to know about Him like you do. So, let them know! ³⁷

Since God created you and you are valuable to Him, respect the breath of life He has provided you. ³⁸

Live your life for Him. Respect the lives of others He has created!

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