

**BACK TO BASICS PT 4**  
**GET REAL – LIFE – SOMETHING TO TREASURE NOT TRASH**  
**Sanctity of Life Sunday 2026**

**Sanctity of Life**

Let's be reminded that a biblical worldview is a prolife worldview!

EBC Statement of Faith – “*We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including the unborn babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.*” (Psalm 139)

The biblical, prolife worldview says three things –

- 1 – God created humans in His image – therefore they have special standing and significance (they are sacred) –
  - Genesis 1:26, 27 – “*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.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*”
  - To be made in God's image means at least three things –
    - Personhood (intellect, emotions, and will)
    - Dominion (over and above the rest of creation)
    - Immortality (a soul that lives forever)
  - Gensis 2:7 – “*Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*”
- 2 – Humans bearing the image of God is the basis for God's command “You shall not murder” –
  - Mankind becomes nearly unredeemable in the days of Noah –
    - God brings judgment on the world but saves humanity through Noah and his family because, “*But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*” (Gen. 6:8)
  - Through the law-and-order God establishes after the flood, it becomes apparent that the primary evil of pre-flood man was murder – there was no valuing of human life.
    - Genesis 9:5b-6 – “*From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*”
    - Succinctly stated in the 10 Commandments – “You shall not murder.” (Ex. 20:13)
  - Murder is to take actions that result in the ending of innocent life.
- 3 – Human life “in all its dimensions...and every stage or condition from conception through natural death” bears the image of God, is sacred, and must be protected and preserved not killed.

**Sovereignty of God Over Life**

When we talk about the “Sovereignty of God” we are talking about two things –

- 1 – God's place as God –
  - The word “sovereignty” means to “rule over” –
  - God as God rules over all things – He is sovereign.
- 2 – God's active involvement in all things –
  - This is referred to as God's Providence –
  - And we can think of God's Providence in a macro and micro level –
    - Macro level in that He actively rules the Universe –
    - Micro level in that He actively rules your life!

-Let's talk about God Providence, His active involvement in your life –

1 Corinthians 7:17 – “Only let each person lead the life<sup>[1]</sup> that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him...”

-Notice carefully – your life is an assignment and calling from God.

There are times that this assignment and calling from God is mostly pleasant –

-Good health, adequate to overflowing provision, satisfying and encouraging relationships –

-Praise the Lord for that!

-This is due to the grace and kindness of God, and we should not see those times as rights but as God's gifts.

Then there are times when the assignment and calling are difficult – unpleasant –

-Poor health, the loss of a loved one – or maybe the end of life.

But what is the command of the Lord?

-As Paul said, “Let each person **lead the life** that the Lord has assigned...”

-To “lead the life” is to live life well –

-It is to live to please God as a faithful steward of that season of life.

It is a matter of perspective –

-We have tended to lead pleasant and comfortable lives –

-That's not bad, but it can begin to give us a skewed view of planet earth life.

This leads us to think about God's purposes in suffering –

### **Suffering and God's Purposes**

When it comes to understanding God's purposes in suffering, there is much that could be said –

-Many passages that God can use to instruct and comfort our hearts in suffering.

-But the one I want to turn to now is, in my mind, especially helpful because the teaching is wrapped in personal testimony – The Apostle Paul's testimony to be specific!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Paul's logic goes something like this –

-Embracing weakness is key to experiencing the life sustaining power of God's grace

-Weakness is our condition and suffering is what we experience when that condition meets trials and tribulations –

-v. 10 – “...weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.”

-So, we suffer because our weakness is meeting with the trials and tribulations of life.

-Our outer man suffers physical pain due to sickness and weariness.

-Our inner man suffers due to cares and grief.

Suffering is not sinful – it is normal – but it can be the instrument by which we are tempted to sin –

-Tempted to despair; tempted to give up; maybe even tempted to end one's life.

But Paul's testimony is that **because** of the weakness and suffering, he experienced something good and glorious which was the sustaining power of God's sufficient grace!

-That grace was the willingness to accept whatever God brought into his life with joy.

-That grace was the willingness to let God use suffering to change and grow him into the image of Christ.

-That grace was the willingness to let God use suffering to testify to others of His saving grace in Jesus Christ.

It is biblical to help relieve the suffering of others if that relief is within the boundaries of God's authority and morality. Prov. 31:6 – “Give strong drink to the one who is perishing...”

### **Self-Autonomy and It's Dangers**

When people make an argument for assisted suicide, the leaving of pain is often the argument used to persuade you that it is the loving thing to do.