



# Life: For the Unborn or the Living?

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Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

***(Genesis 1:26–27)***

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God.

***(Genesis 5:1)***

## Bottom Line: Every Life Matters

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ***(James 2:8–9)***

## Imago Dei

### Children Matter

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)***

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. ***(Jeremiah 1:5)***

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there. ***(Matthew 19:14–15)***

### The Poor Matter.

*Touchy Subjects*

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If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land. **(Deuteronomy 15:11)**

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...  
**(Matthew 25:35)**

### **Immigrants Matter.**

The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 19:34)**

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. **(Hebrews 13:2)**

## **How Do We Respond?**

### **Stand for All Life.**

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **(Matthew 25:40)**

### **Show Mercy to All.**

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. **(James 2:12-13)**

### **Share Resources.**

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had."  
**(Acts 4:32)**

*Touchy Subjects*

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**Small Group Leaders:** Remember this is a very “touchy subject” so please remind everyone to take that into consideration as you talk and share.

1. Why is the issue of “life” in our world today such an emotional one in our world today?
2. **Read and discuss Genesis 1:26-27:** What does it mean that we (male and female) are created in the image of God? What does this mean for you and what does this mean for others? How do you feel about God’s involvement in your life from before birth? (**Psalms 139:13-14**)
3. **Read James 2:1; 8:** In what ways have you seen or experienced favoritism in the world? Would you say that the same kind of favoritism exists inside churches? How does the issue of favoritism apply to our discussion about life?
4. In the pro-choice vs. pro-life discussion, why do you think so many prioritize a “pro woman” stance over a “pro-infant” stance or vice versa? Is it possible to be for both the infant and women? What are the challenges of this position?
5. **Read Deuteronomy 15:11; Matthew 25:35 and Leviticus 19:34:** How do the poor and the immigrant often get overlooked when Christians talk about “life”?
6. How does the church take a stand for life and yet show mercy to those who may differ?
7. In what ways can we share our resources to help those in need in these areas?
8. Pray for our witness to the world in these critical areas of life?

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