

Editors Note September

“Numberless are the world’s wonders, but none more wonderful than man.” Sophocles

Mankind.

The crown jewel, the apex of Creation.

In the beginning, the Godhead fashioned male and female in Their image and likeness. God formed man from the dust of the ground, breathed life into his nostrils, and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

What makes human life so special, so sacred, and so very valuable? One reason is that we, unlike any other created entity, are created with an eternal soul—and the unlimited potential housed within each one of us is undeniable. The tenderness of human love, the ingenuity of human achievement, the possibility for good influence, and the outpouring of emotion when human life is lost, suggest an inherent value to human life. Consider, “how many animals have ever gathered to memorialize their dead?” But, above all of that, the plan, the action, and the amazing sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf tell us that human life is valuable! Why did Jesus leave the throne room of heaven and walk the dirty streets of Jerusalem if human life had no value?

But the world would tell us otherwise. The sanctity of human life seemingly is an antiquated notion in our society today. Children are taught from a very early age that our very existence is simply a cosmic chain-of-events, and that humans evolved upward from some primordial soup. Those same children watch as our society aborts life as it forms in the womb and labels it an inconvenience. They watch as our society prematurely ends the life of adults and calls it compassionate. They watch as gunfire is exchanged over something as trivial as a bag of potato chips or a pair of shoes.

They watch as our society decides the elderly are no longer productive and therefore are expendable. These seeds that are being planted in the hearts and minds of children do not come without a high cost. The point should not be missed that what we sow we will reap.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7-8).

Philo of Alexandria, a first century Jewish historian and philosopher once observed, "When old storks become unable to fly, they remain in their nests and are fed by their children, who go to endless exertions to provide their food because of their piety." How sad is it that these birds often treat their family members better than many humans do today! Our children and grandchildren do not live in a vacuum. They observe and comprehend the value our society is currently placing on human life. Is it any wonder then, that as Baby Boomers age, many sacred duties of caring for older loved ones are turned over to the state? Care becomes poor and lives are cut short for convenience.

In January we investigated the ethics of embryonic stem cell research. In the July issue we examined abortion and when life begins. This month we turn our attention to “lives that matter.” Almost every church family holds within it the story of a member whose life was suddenly changed by a traumatic accident or disaster. Late night phone calls reveal that a once healthy and vibrant loved one has undergone emergency surgery and is now tethered to tubes and wires, and remind us of the preciousness of life. But the question should be asked, “Is that life is any less valuable in the eyes of God? Is that person—although changed forever—unable to influence others for good?”

In working on this particular issue we wanted to take the readers behind the scenes of one of the most publicized life-and-death struggles in recent history: the Terri Schiavo case. We spent an afternoon interviewing Terri's brother and met with her parents. Their words are a bold reminder of what happens when we lose sight of the real value a life holds—even a life confined to a hospital bed.

When the Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God, He used the first four to deal with man's relationship to God. The remaining six deal with man's relationship with his fellow man.

While we are no longer under the Old Law, the New Law put into place at the death of Christ only further emphasized the way in which humans were to treat their fellow men. We believe the time is now for Christians to defend the sanctity of human life. It is our prayer that every one will think on these things.

Jim and Brad