

REASON TO HOPE

the what & why of our faith
Imago Dei: Life and Marriage

Cascade Community Church

Sept. 30th, 2018



***"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save
sinners, of whom I am chief."***

- 1 Timothy 1:15(NKJV)



“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”

-1 Peter 3:15-16(NKJV)



Because humanity has been created in the image of God, all human life is sacred. We affirm the infinite value of pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We believe God has ordained marriage to unite one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union under the authority of God.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.

***-Cascade Community Church
Statement of Faith, Section 13***



"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

-Matthew 6:26 (NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer



“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

-Galatians 3:28-29 (NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer

A. Human Life is Sacred



"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them."

-Psalm 139:13-16 (NKJV)



“If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall spay as the judges determine. ²³ But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”

-Exodus 21:22-25 (NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer

A. Human Life is Sacred

B. Human Life is to Be Protected



- ***Proverbs 31:8-9 - "Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die. ⁹ Open your mouth, judge righteously, And plead the cause of the poor and needy."***
- ***Isaiah 1:17 - "Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow."***
- ***James 1:27 - "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."***

(All references NKJV)



- ***Exodus 21:12 – “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.”***
- ***Exodus 22:19 – “Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.”***

(All references NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer

A. Human Life is Sacred

B. Human Life is to Be Protected

II. The Work of an Image Bearer



“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

-Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer

A. Human Life is Sacred

B. Human Life is to Be Protected

II. The Work of an Image Bearer

A. Reflect the Character of God Morally



“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

-1 Peter 1:13-16 (NKJV)



“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

-1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NKJV)



Outline

I. The Worth of an Image Bearer

A. Human Life is Sacred

B. Human Life is to Be Protected

II. The Work of an Image Bearer

A. Reflect the Character of God Morally

B. Reflect the Character of God Socially



“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

-1 John 3:16-18 (NKJV)



“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

-Romans 5:8 (NKJV)



Application

1. Honor the Sacred Value of Human Life



Application

1. Honor the Sacred Value of Human Life
2. Honor the Sacred Institution of Marriage



“ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

-Ephesians 5:31-32 (NKJV)

