

The Sanctity of Life

Lesson 12: Building a Culture of Life -- Deuteronomy 30:19-20

We have come a long way together. We began in Eden, marveling that every human being bears the image of God. We have stood in wonder at the child knit together in the womb, sat with Elijah in his despair, walked to the edge of life and looked into the face of death with hope, and wrestled honestly with some of the hardest questions a person can face. Now, as the study closes, Scripture gathers all of it into a single, ringing summons. Standing before his people at the border of the promised land, Moses lays out the choice: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life."

Notice that the call is not merely, "Do not destroy life." It is, "Choose life." There is a world of difference. It is possible to spend a whole lifetime never harming anyone and yet never truly cherishing anyone either, to keep our hands clean while keeping our hearts closed. The God who treasures every life calls us to something far more active and beautiful than mere harmlessness. He calls us to pursue life, protect it, welcome it, delight in it, and pour ourselves out for it, at every stage and in every person.

The prophet Micah tells us what that looks like on the ground. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" A reverence for life is not finally about winning arguments; it is about becoming the kind of people, and the kind of churches, where justice is done for the vulnerable, mercy is poured out on the hurting, and we walk humbly before the God who gives and holds all life. That is how a culture of life is actually built, not mainly by slogans, but by people whose lives have been reshaped to cherish what God cherishes.

And so we end where the gospel always ends: with grace and hope. Some who have walked through these lessons carry old wounds, a grief over a lost child, a hard decision at a deathbed, a season of despair, a guilt long buried. Hear this clearly as the study closes: in Christ there is full forgiveness, a fresh beginning, and a hope that nothing in your past can cancel. The same God who calls us to choose life is the God who chose us, who gave His Son so that we might live. Come, then, and choose life, not in fear, but as those who have been loved to the uttermost. Let us spend our days cherishing every life that bears His image, holding unflinching truth and overflowing grace together, just as they were held together at the cross.

Group Discussion: As this study ends, what does it mean for a church to be not merely against what destroys life, but actively for life, a place where life is welcomed and cherished at every stage? What is one way your congregation could grow into that calling?

Personal Reflection: Looking back over the whole study, how has God changed the way you see human life, others' and your own? What is the one truth you most want to carry forward, and how will you let it shape your life?

Read Deuteronomy 30:19–20

Study Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:19–20. God sets before His people “life and death, blessing and curse,” and pleads, “Choose life, that you and your offspring may live.” What does it mean that reverence for life is not only about opposing what destroys life but about actively choosing it?
2. As this study closes, where is God calling you personally to “choose life,” to actively pursue, protect, and cherish life rather than merely avoiding harm? What would choosing life look like in your daily relationships and decisions?
3. Deuteronomy 30:20 describes choosing life as “loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him.” How is choosing life ultimately bound up with our relationship to God Himself, the source and giver of all life?
4. Looking back over this whole study, the image of God, the unborn, the suffering, the despairing, the vulnerable, where has God most changed your heart? What is one area where you now see life differently than when you began?
5. Read Micah 6:8: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” How do these three, justice, mercy, and humility, together form the heart of a life that honors the sanctity of every person?
6. Which of the three, doing justice, loving kindness, or walking humbly with God, does God seem to be pressing on you most as this study ends? What would it look like to grow in that area in the coming season?
7. A culture of life is built not mainly by arguments but by people who cherish and care for life at every stage. How can you, your family, and your congregation become a place where life is welcomed, protected, and treasured, from the womb to the final breath?
8. For some, these lessons may have stirred old grief or guilt connected to abortion, end-of-life decisions, despair, or other wounds. How does the gospel speak grace and hope to you, assuring you that in Christ there is full forgiveness and a fresh beginning?
9. Trace the whole vision of this study into a single calling. If every human life bears the image of God and is precious to Him, what does it mean to spend our lives choosing life, doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God, and how does this calling hold together unflinching truth and overflowing grace?
10. Look back over Deuteronomy 30:19–20 and Micah 6:8, and over the whole study. Name one specific, lasting way you will choose life and honor the sanctity of every person going forward, and one concrete step you will take this week to begin, resting in the grace and hope of the gospel.

Digging Deeper

Reflect on these passages: Micah 6:8, do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God; John 10:10, I came that they may have life and have it abundantly; Deuteronomy 30:19, choose life, that you and your offspring may live; Galatians 6:9-10, let us do good to everyone; Isaiah 1:18, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.

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