

# life matters

## Are the foundations crumbling?

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Our culture is increasingly hostile to a grammatical/historical reading of the first three chapters of Genesis. Consider what would be lost if we agreed to ignore them:

**Chapter 1** – God made the universe, creating male and female humanity in His own image. He called His work “very good.”

**Chapter 2** – God gave woman to man. He said their union was indissoluble.

**Chapter 3** – Sin brought shame, blame, and death. God promised a Savior.

Because these passages imply we’re all answerable to our Creator, it’s no surprise the world opposes the truths they contain. What’s shocking is that more and more Christians are willing to question or reinterpret them. But consider this:

- **Without Genesis** we forget it’s God who gives life. Scientific and medical advances are alleged to generate or prolong life, but lack ultimate power.<sup>1</sup>
- **Without Genesis** human beings are just another form of animal life. Science and technology help us admire and respect the human body and give us a “window on the womb,” but they don’t tell us why we’re special.<sup>2</sup>
- **Without Genesis** humans have no basis for dominion over other creatures or stewardship of the earth.<sup>3</sup>

- **Without Genesis** we equate animal and plant reproduction (“after their kind”) with human procreation (“in his image”).<sup>4</sup>
- **Without Genesis** any kind of family life will do; yet it and other Scriptures teach that any sexual act outside marriage (one man/one woman for life) is immoral.<sup>5</sup>
- **Without Genesis** we don’t know the origins of suffering and death. Life as we know it now isn’t as God intended it to be, and He is not to blame. We brought pain on ourselves by disobeying Him.<sup>6</sup>

In short, this foundational book is not only vital to current controversies but also to the Gospel message – which is amply proven by the number of references to Genesis in the New Testament.

Consider that **without Genesis** we lose perspective on our wretchedness before a Holy God and the magnificence of our hope in Christ. He died and rose again to loosen the chains of sin and squash the power of death. He comes again to establish the New Heavens and the New Earth, where we’ll live forever with Him.<sup>7</sup>

**F**orty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court set aside the sanctity of human life. Today, it’s poised to do away with the sanctity of marriage. What should we do?

We should respond the way Christians always have: advocating and defending Truth in the public square for the good of our neighbors while being careful not to neglect the Gospel or erect barriers to it.

- **Without the Gospel** we tend to lose sight of the absolute goodness of God and focus instead on our own goodness.<sup>8</sup>
- **Without the Gospel** we leave people with half-truths. Yes, physical life is God’s gift, but an even greater gift is new life in Christ.<sup>9</sup>
- **Without the Gospel** we make the mistake of thinking death is an escape from painful existence. Unless a person repents and turns to Christ in faith, death brings ultimate suffering and pain.<sup>10</sup>

The pro-life ethic is rooted in Genesis and propelled by the Gospel. It is fleshed out in the daily lives of believers . . . or ought to be.

This is why Life Matters Worldwide has developed the *Powered by God* curriculum for 4th through 6th graders. It’s also why we work to establish pro-life ministries around the world. Pregnancy care centers and our LIFT ministry of respite care uphold the sanctity of human life and marriage by teaching these truths, by sharing the Gospel, and by demonstrating Christ’s love in practical ways.

**1)** Gen. 1:20-25; see also Job 12:10 and 1 Samuel 2:6. **2)** Gen. 1:26-27; see also 9:5-6. **3.)** Gen 1:28, 9:1-4. **4)** Gen. 1:11-12, 20-22, 24-25 and 5:1-3. **5)** Gen. 2:24 and 3:20. **6)** Gen. 2:16-17 and 3:16; see also Romans 5:12. **7)** Gen. 3:15 and 12:3; see also 2 Peter 3:1-13 and Revelation 21:3-4, 22:3-5. **8)** Rom. 2:4, Titus 3:3-6. **9)** John 5:24-27, Rom. 6:23. **10)** Hebrews 9:27, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.