

This is a message running throughout Scripture, and the reason Life Matters Worldwide exists. As we are confronted with old and new threats to the sanctity of human life, we hold them up to the mirror of God's Word. And as we take pro-life ministries with us across the country and around the world, we teach the biblical values that inform right attitudes and behavior.

- We help churches teach the biblical pro-life ethic and train leaders to implement services like LIFT.
- We help missionaries develop pro-life ministries to enhance church-planting efforts.
- We help sustain pregnancy care centers as effective Gospel outreaches.

Yes!
Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

P.O. Box 3158, Grand Rapids, MI 49501
lifemattersww.org, staff@lifemattersww.org
(616) 257-6800, 1-800-968-6086

Sources: 1) "Interactive Prenatal Development Timeline," The Endowment for Human Development, www.ehd.org/science. 2) John 5:26, 6:63, 14:6. 3) 1 Timothy 4:10. 4) Genesis 1:12-27. 5) Gen. 1:31. 6) Gen. 1:28-29, 5:1-3. 7) Hebrews 1:3. 8) Romans 8:29, Colossians 3:10. 9) Proverbs 17:5, James 3:8-10.

Why **DOES LIFE MATTER?**

Science can tell us amazing facts about life – what it's made of, how biological systems work together, and what people are like before birth. For instance . . .

- Your heart will beat more than 3.2 billion times over your lifetime.
- It began beating when you were 3 weeks and 1 day old.
- Before you were born, your heart beat approximately 54 million times!¹

While science can only speculate on life's origin, the Bible is definitive:

- God the Father "has life in Himself."
- "The Spirit gives life."
- Jesus is "the life."²

He is, after all, "the living God."³ All life – eternal and physical – is *from* Him and *of* Him. We celebrate life in all its forms because it is His gift.

But what's special about human life? Why do we talk about it as being "sacred"?

Why does HUMAN LIFE matter

Again, science can tell us amazing things about the human being, but only guess about our significance. Aside from God's Word, there's little to go on other than all the impressive things we can do that other creatures cannot.

How does the Bible help? In Genesis 1, God uses one pattern to describe the creation of plant, bird, and animal life:

*The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed **after their kind**, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, **after their kind**; and God saw that it was good.*

*... God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed **after their kind**, and every winged bird **after its kind**; and God saw that it was good.*

*... God made the beasts of the earth **after their kind**, and the cattle **after their kind**, and everything that creeps on the ground **after its kind**; and God saw that it was good.⁴*

He used a different pattern to describe the creation of man:

*God created man **in His own image, in the image of God** He created him; male and female He created them. ... God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.⁵*

He gave man dominion over the other forms of life and later continued the "image of God" pattern when describing procreation:

*In the day when God created man, He made him **in the likeness of God**. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son **in his own likeness**, according to **his image**, and named him Seth.⁶*

Human beings beget other human beings – not *after their kind*, but *in the image*. Specialness is passed from one generation to the next.

Nothing nonhuman has ever come from human parents, yet scientists and philosophers would like us to believe that if a person's incapable of doing certain things, he or she is subhuman. This category could include babies not yet born, the profoundly disabled, and those who've become unconscious.

We, on the other hand, trust that *all* human offspring bear the image of God regardless of ability. This is true at every stage of life and in every condition of life – whether a person is born-again or unregenerate, young or old, able-bodied or incapacitated.

This is why the sanctity of human life matters to all believers.

Jesus perfectly reflected God's image.⁷ Sinless himself, He bore our penalty of death and rose again so we could have eternal life. We who believe are created anew to bear His likeness!⁸

When we respect the sanctity of another person's life – especially someone who is small, weak, despised, or under attack – we mirror His holiness and His compassion for people. We bring glory to Him.⁹