

A Concern for Life – *Deuteronomy 22:1-8*

Introduction – (*side note: it is amazing how contemporary the Word of God remains*). In this section, we conclude Moses' commentary on the sixth commandment with a view to the biblical conservation of life as given to us by God. How are we to be a steward of this gift called life?

The Golden Rule Applied (vv1-4) – If you find something of value which your brother has lost, whether he knows it or not yet, you have a responsibility to care for it until such time that it can be given back or retrieved. "Finders – keepers" is not biblical. If it is worth keeping, it is worth returning. We should do good, especially to those of the household of faith (Gal 6:10). Exodus 23:4-5 includes this law even it is your enemy, and Jesus made the same clear (Matt 5:44). This law is disobeyed by doing nothing. The wicked pretend not to see and turn away (Prov 29:7).

Caring About Life – Living in community (your home, your church, your city) means caring about the life of others and there are sins of commission and omission that must be considered. When you see a need, you are to hustle to help. And of course, situation to situation requires wisdom to know when and how much to intervene. This consideration includes caring about lost souls (1 Pet 2:25).

Male and Female He Created Them (v5) – Life is a gift from God. "God created man in His own image..." (Gen 1:27), but He goes on to say "male and female He created them." And so, being concerned for life must allow "life" to be defined by God. Two things are prohibited. The second is the sin of transvestitism, where a man dresses effeminately in the garb of a woman, which not only blurs the gender distinctions (1 Cor 11:13-14) but is often quickly connected to homosexuality and other sexual perversions. The first prohibition is not exactly the same. A woman shall not "wear anything that pertains" to a man is using a term that refers to military weapons, tools, and other peculiarly masculine items.

Politically Incorrect – This is a particular place where our culture has fallen and continues to fall. Men are to protect the women and children of their communities and not the other way around. In addition, there is a particular kinkiness that is not lost among the unregenerate, hence our G.I. Jane, sexy agents with guns, and ninja warriorettes with ripped abs and pierced belly-buttons. Women should not be cops, infantrymen, or firemen – for starters. Families must carefully think through how a girl is to be involved in sports in a different way than how boys are to be involved. A generation or two ago, we would never have allowed women to go into combat. Today, we risk some idiot during the next military draft bringing lawsuits because we aren't also requiring the women to go to the frontlines in equal numbers. Our unisex, egalitarian culture is an abomination to the Lord.

In sum, we are not to destroy life, with all of its masculine and feminine distinctions, as God created it. We are instead to cultivate and glory in these distinctions (1 Cor 10:7). We obscure this if men are wimps and women try to be men. This is not a low view of women any more than it is a low view of crystal wine glasses to say that you shouldn't use them to pound nails. And the church needs to lead in the way of repentance by abolishing the practice of dressing up their women in order to pretend to be pastors – even if the church wants a type of pastor that would be better filled by a woman. This is all connected.

Life with a Long-Term View (vv6-7) – If we are still in the sixth commandment, then it appears this has to do with stewardship of resources and the land, with a view to long life, thinking long term about your environment. This is far different than having a pantheistic, coercive conservationism. It is also far different than requiring licenses before you can pick up those eggs or young birds.

Common Sense Community Expectations (v8) – Speaking of licenses, notice that you don't need a permit to build a roof (ancient version of the second-story deck), but you are expected to take common sense care, and thus we do have a biblical building code connected to the Golden Rule. If the parapet was not there, you could be found guilty of negligent homicide after the fact. Fencing your swimming pool, safely wiring your house, shoveling your walkways could be other applications. This is a far cry from the prohibitionist mentality, looking to the Almighty State to keep us safe from cradle to grave, all the while giving up countless freedoms. The application is simple: take responsibility for the things you own, make, sell, that you do not cause undo harm on others' lives.

And So... - Love is not gooey sentimentalism. Love is treating your neighbor according to the law from whole heart. And do not defend yourself by saying that no one said to do just this or that at just this time and in just this situation. Grow in wisdom.

Bear One Another's Burdens (Gal 6:2) – *and so fulfill the law of Christ*. And what was His law?

My Burden is Light (Matt 11:28-30) – Coming to Jesus meant rest, relief, a lighter load. Life with one another should be the same as we reflect, imitate, and embody His gospel in our lives with one another.