

The Fruit of the Womb – Psalm 127:3

Introduction – This is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in our nation today. 44 years ago, Roe v. Wade sanctified the murder of unborn children as a constitutional right for all pregnant women regardless of State laws. This is only one of many historical instances where the heart of fallen man is manifest. “Fruitlessness is a religion, and abortion is their bloody sacrament” – D. Wilson. Ever since the Fall, mankind has chosen death (Gen 2:15-17). It is in the nature of unbelieving man to love death and it has been the work of the kingdom of God to proclaim life from the dead. The Scriptures declare this in countless ways, including here: “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.” We are not only to be a people against abortion; we are to be a thankful people – thankful to our God – thankful to Him for the gift of life.

Abortion is a Sin – There isn’t room for any debate if one is faithfully submissive to the Scriptures. Abortion is nothing less than the intentional murder of a human being (Gen 9:6, Ex 20:13, 21:22-25, Psalm 139:13-16). Modern medical technology has revealed this to be the case as well, showing forth the glorious hand of God in the womb in living color and in our growing knowledge of the details of the life and development of a baby during his or her nine months in his or her mother’s womb. Our Constitution declares life to be a right for all humans given to us by our Creator. And life cannot be determined based on quality, intellect, convenience, span of time, need for care, or other measures of value placed upon it by a culture or society. Whenever it is qualified by such things, the weakest and most vulnerable in a society are the victims and a culture of death prevails.

The Judgment of God - God gives nations that hate Him over to their sins; abortion is the judgment of God upon an unbelieving nation (Prov 8:36, Rom 1:28-29). God gives us over to our idolatries. These are children offered to the god of choice and convenience. These are children considered so contemptible that their own parents slaughter them. If there is no repentance, as there has not been for decades now, infanticide and forced euthanasia will become law as well. There is no logic to their arbitrary lines; there are no brakes to this insanity.

A Heritage and a Reward – The Psalmist gives us a completely different view of what is in the womb of a mother. There she holds a heritage (a possession, an inheritance) from the LORD (it has been given to her by God), and the fruit of the womb (even while in the womb) is a reward (a gift from the LORD, understood in the Hebrew parallelism). Pregnancy is not an evolutionary, impersonal activity taking place; it is the Personal hand of God at work, knitting together another image-bearer.

A Culture of Life – Receiving, embracing, and cultivating a culture of life requires far more than legislative actions. Laws should be in place to protect people, even and especially vulnerable, little people. But we are to be a people who love the gift of life. Which means...

We Love What God Loves – God desires godly offspring (Mal 2:15). That phrase is tucked into a paragraph discussing why God hates divorce which implies that He loves the family structure He has created: A man and a woman, a husband and wife, a father and mother, sexually united under covenant vows of faithfulness. The natural possibility of pregnancy is one of the reasons God created sexual union and intimacy. This is why God hates all forms of fornication – not because God hates sex; He hates the perversion of it.

We Love and Live in God’s Promises – In covenant homes, we believe the promises of God for ourselves and for our future generations (Deut 7:9) which directs the way we instruct our children (Eph 6:1-3). In stark contrast to a culture that has a lousy attitude about kids, we maintain that children, even lots of children, are a great blessing. They are not an automatic blessing, for we must walk in the promises of God and in faith train them up in the fear of the Lord – else they become a curse (Prov 17:25). Large, obedient families are a blessing. But Samuel would not have been more greatly blessed if he had had five sons who took bribes instead of two (1 Sam 8:3). This is why we believe discipleship of fathers and mothers is critical in the working out of the doctrines surrounding the Gift of Life, the Training of our Children in the Lord, and the biblical roles of family. We love and live in the hard work of being parents, of being spouses, of being a Christian family.

We Love and Live in God’s Sovereignty – Among other things this means that while we embrace the gift of children, we remember it is a gift of God and is not to become an idol. Our satisfaction is to be found first and foremost, along with our devotion, in the Lord Jesus (Luke 14:26). This is true regarding the number of children God determines to give as well as the life span and circumstance of every family member in our home.

The Purpose of the Reward – We long to see the kingdom of God established over generations and this means we will need faithful children and grandchildren to stand in our place in the generations to come. Psalm 127:4-5 reveals that this talk about the blessing of children is not primarily talking about the patter of little feet running around in your home. This blessing of life is revealed when your grown children, well brought up, are prepared to join with you in battle – the battle for the kingdom of God in the proclaiming and living out the Gospel of life from the dead.