



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

Casualties of war

Dear Pastor,

January 19 is recognized as Sanctity of Life Sunday. I hope you will prayerfully consider doing something to draw attention to this issue. This is, fundamentally, a moral issue. Scripture speaks directly and indirectly to this issue.

While the focus of January 19 is on the sanctity of the lives of unborn fellow image-bearers, we believe the life of every man and woman, boy and girl is “sacred” because every individual is, in fact, an image-bearer. This is why when we talk about the sanctity of life, we mean every life from the point of conception to natural death.

We live in a culture that promotes death and glorifies death. We see this in the abortion “industry.” We see this in the push for euthanasia and assisted suicide. We see it in the rising suicide rate. We see it in the objectification of men and women in sex-trafficking and pornography. We see it in violent video games. We see it in mass shootings. Our culture is devaluing life. This is a spiritual battle. It is a war of worldviews. Unborn children are perhaps the most visible and frequent casualties of this war, though they are not the only casualties.

If we fail to visit this issue on a regular basis, it will be easy for us to become “acculturated,” to get comfortable with the idea of abortion and other forms of devaluing human life.

Instead we need to regularly cry out against this devaluing, as well as against the sins leading to and accompanying it (sexual immorality, self-love, etc.). We also need to promote the alternatives to issues such as abortion, as well as the logical and biblical arguments against it.

Here are some suggestions for what you might do on Sunday, January 19:

- Preach a message on the sanctity of life, including answers to some of the more common arguments made in favor of abortion, as well as the glorious life-giving message of the gospel.
 - Be sure to communicate God’s love for any woman who has had an abortion. Abortion is not the unforgivable sin! God’s grace and forgiveness are available for all sin. Praise the Lord!
- Encourage folks to consider volunteering at a Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC).
- Encourage families to consider adoption. They might want to read a good book on the blessings and benefits of adoption as they consider this.
- Encourage families to consider becoming involved in foster care.
- Encourage your people to develop a biblical understanding of the sanctity of life and the ability to defend and promote their views.
- Remind folks that they can obtain a “Choose Life” license plate, thereby promoting a positive message to the culture and providing a funding stream for pro-life PRCs in Wisconsin.
- Encourage folks to financially support the work of an organization, like Wisconsin Family Council, that promotes a biblical understanding of the sanctity of life, and Wisconsin Family Action, that works on getting good legislation for the protection of human life.
- Encourage your people to read the January issue of Wisconsin Family Council’s “Church Connection” which promotes a pro-life position relative to pregnancy.
- Make available in your church resource center one or more good books on the issue of abortion, adoption, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. (A partial list of good resources is available [HERE](#).) This isn’t intended to be an exhaustive list. I expect you may come up with even better ideas—in which case, please feel free to share them!



I know the sanctity of life issue has political ramifications. So be it. Every time we proclaim that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords—which I assume we all do fairly often—we are making a true claim with political ramifications.

So let us, without apology or embarrassment, boldly proclaim the good truth of God's Word. **Every human life is the life of a fellow image-bearer and is worthy of protection and care.** It may not be a popular message with the culture, but God calls us to proclaim His Word, whether it is popular or not.

After discussing key elements of the Gospel (we are sinners, we are condemned, we cannot save ourselves, Jesus died to pay the penalty of our sins, the only way to be saved is to repent of our sin and place our faith in Jesus and Jesus alone for salvation, etc.), David Platt, in his book, *Counter Culture*, makes this observation: "When you put all these truths in the gospel together, you realize that the most offensive and counter-cultural claim in Christianity is not what Christians believe about homosexuality or abortion, marriage or religious liberty. Instead, the most offensive claim in Christianity is that God is the Creator, Owner, and Judge of every person on the planet" (p. 16).

In Christ,



Dave Lingle
WFC Church Ambassador

PS: Our next community events are coming up! We hope you can join us for one of our "2020 Vision: Contending for the Faith, Challenging the Culture" programs. We will be in Oconomowoc (January 16) and Janesville (January 23). Click [**HERE**](#) for more information and to register for these events. Please feel free to encourage your church family to attend if they live in the area. Thanks!

PPS: Most unfortunately, in the January issue of "Church Connection," we listed the date of the February primary as Tuesday, February 20. **PLEASE NOTE: The correct date is Tuesday, February 18.** We apologize for any confusion. We try our best to prevent errors like this from occurring; but clearly, we failed in this instance.