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|  | **We Value Life!** |
| Psalm 139 Romans 12:1-2, 17--21 Luke 10:25-37 |
| February 11, 2018 |
| Pastor Dave Bolte |

**How important is your body?**

Of course, it’s very important! You spend a lot of time taking care of it; you buy clothes, shoes and food, all for your body; you have a home for shelter; perhaps you are careful what you eat and spend time exercising; and, if your body gets sick, there are medicines, doctors, and hospitals to take care of your body. In fact, one of the biggest concerns in our society is the cost of health care: i.e., the cost of taking care of your body! ***Your body is important!***

**Your Body is Important to God as Well!**

The Lord is the One who created your body and gave you life. God created you in both body and soul. In a nutshell, ***your body is everything about you that can be seen, and your soul is everything about you that cannot be seen.*** Your body is flesh and blood. It’s skin, muscles, and bones. Your body grows, develops and matures. Your body is a gift from God the Creator to you!

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| **Psalm 139:13-14** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I  praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made |

Not only is **your body a gift** from God the Creator to you, but other people’s bodies are ***God’s gift to them*** as well --- *and we are to help, defend, and protect them ---*

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| **THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT**  You shall not kill.  *What does this mean?*  We should fear and love God, so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need. |

**The Fifth Commandment teaches us to VALUE LIFE!**

**We Value Life** because God the Father **created** your body --- and He created your neighbor’s body as well. God the Son **redeemed** your body by His death on the cross --- and He redeemed your neighbor’s body as well. God is the Lord and Giver of all life, and we are **not to hurt, harm, or hate** our neighbor.

Today we heard Jesus teach a **parable** about **Valuing Life**. The parable of the **GOOD SAMARITAN** is a Fifth Commandment parable. Jesus teaches us not to be cold and indifferent to our neighbor and their bodily needs like the priest and the Levite were in the parable. Rather we are to be like the Samaritan, who befriended the man who was robbed and beaten.

Of course, **Jesus is the Good Samaritan.** He went out of His way to help you; He sacrificed His life on a cross to rescue you from sin and death. The devil, his demons, and our own sinful nature have robbed us, beaten us, and left us 1/2 dead. But Jesus comes to our side, and through the Gospel, He binds up our wounds and heals us. Because of His death and resurrection, our bodies and souls are redeemed from sin, guilt and death. Our sins are forgiven, we belong to God, and we have the hope of the resurrection of our bodies on the Last Day! Through faith in Christ, you have new and eternal life --- *right now!* --- in both body and soul!

This is a Gospel angle on the Commandment; **Jesus is the Good Samaritan who helps and befriends us;** and in the Parable, Jesus tells us to **go and do likewise.** We are to care for others as the Good Samaritan cared for the man who was robbed and beaten. We are to love and help others as Christ has loved and helped us. Through faith in Christ, we **VALUE LIFE**!

We will not **hurt, harm or hate** our neighbor,

but we will **help and befriend** him in every bodily need!

**The Fifth Commandment teaches us that our body and our life is a gift from God, and no one has the right to take your life or hurt your body --- *and in the same way,* you cannot take a life nor hurt someone else’s body. This is the basis of the fifth commandment: *Thou shall not kill.* Rather than hurting, harming, or hating, we VALUE LIFE! and help people!**

The Fifth Commandment covers all areas of your life, and your body. The Fifth Commandment shapes our thinking and forms our attitudes in many areas. Yu may be surprised at how wide ranging this commandment is! Think about the influence of Fifth Commandment in these areas of your life:

* Think about **ANGER**. Jesus connects sinful ANGER to this commandment (Matthew 5:21-22). If you are “hot-headed”, or have a *short fuse*, then you are sinning against the Fifth Commandment. There is no room for sinful anger in your life. Do not let your sinful anger lead you to sin against the Fifth Commandment. If your anger gets the best of you, then Repent, confess your anger to God, and treat others with patience and kindness.
* Think about **HEATH AND HYGIENE, DIET AND EXERCISE**. You take care of your body because your body is a gift from God to you. Being concerned about your health and hygiene, diet and exercise shows that you understand that your body is important, and that you **VALUE LIFE**.
* The Fifth Commandment teaches us that we **PROTECT** our bodies from harm and danger: so we do not use illegal drugs, nor abuse alcohol, nor do we hurt our bodies in any other way. *This also means that we do not take our own lives.* The Fifth Commandment teaches us that we **PROTECT** our bodies from harm and danger. In the same way, we also help protect our neighbors from harm and danger.
* We are **PRO-LIFE** Christians because of the Fifth Commandment. We believe life is a gift from God that begins at conception, the *very place* where God **first** gave you your body. We believe that abortion takes a life and destroys a body. Abortion is the sin of murder that violates the Fifth Commandment. If you have been caught up in abortion someway or another, then repent, confess it to God, and trust His never-failing mercy for you in the Lord Jesus Christ. Because we **VALUE LIFE**, and understand that our bodies are created by God, we are pro-life people.
* In the same way that we oppose abortion, we **support** **ADOPTION**, because it **VALUES LIFE**. Adoption is an act of love where families are created and people are valued. Adoption **VALUES LIFE** and treasures children as gifts from God.
* Scripture teaches that your body is so important that it is considered a **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit! God dwells within you as He leads, guides, and works in and through you. Your body is sacred; but, your neighbor’s body is sacred also, and so we do not hurt, harm or hate our neighbor. (By the way, because your body is a sacred temple of God, we are to avoid all forms of sexual immorality. As far as God is concerned, sexual sins desecrate your body, the temple of God.)
* One of the key reasons we live holy, godly, and pure lives is because our bodies **BELONG TO GOD!** The Lord paid a price for you --- the death of His Son – so that ***you now belong to Him.*** You are no longer a slave to sin; you are not lost in the sinful world; you are not controlled by Satan; you are not blind and deceived by the ways of the world, *you belong to God*. Honor God with your body because your body *belongs to God!*

* On the Last Day, your body will **RISE FROM THE DEAD**! This is our *confident and guaranteed* ***hope***! The Last Day --- when Jesus returns --- will be your personal “Easter”: we believe in *the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting!* Your dead body will rise from the dead, and you will live in the Kingdom of Heaven with a glorified and sinless body!

The Fifth Commandment covers all areas of your life, and your body. The Fifth Commandment teaches us to **VALUE LIFE**. *By the power of the Holy Spirit*, we will not hurt, harm or hate our neighbor. Rather, *by the power of the Holy Spirit*, we thank God for our own bodies, and we will help and befriend our neighbor in their bodily needs. Jesus our Good Samaritan, and His Fifth Commandment teach us that our bodies are important, and we are to **VALUE LIFE!** AMEN!