



The Gift of Life

LIFE SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1--2:3 Psalm 121

November 11, 2018

Pastor Dave Bolte

Today we heard the story of Creation, and how God created the heavens and the earth in six 24-hour days, and He rested on the seventh day. By looking at the **created world**, *including your own body*, you learn that there is a God, that He is all powerful, and that He created you. Your **conscience** teaches you that you are *accountable to God your creator*, and that you are to follow His laws. If you fail to do so, you have a guilty conscience.

As Christians, we learn even more about our Creator from Holy Scripture. **We learn that not only is the Creator all-powerful, but also that He is loving, kind, patient, and merciful to us through His Son, Jesus Christ.** We learn that He is our Father in Heaven who sent His only Son into the world to reconcile the world to Himself.

But unfortunately, sin separates us from our Creator and our Father in Heaven. Adam's fall into sin not only sent Creation into a death spiral that will culminate with the destruction of the heavens and the earth on Judgment Day; but Adam's sin also utterly destroyed our relationship with the Creator. His sin and guilt are passed on to us at conception. We talk about this as the doctrine of Original Sin¹. The life we were given by God was stolen by sin, and death is now our daily companion. The problems, pain, and all the health issues of life remind us that death is near, and the day of reckoning is soon approaching.

But God sent Jesus to restore us and give us new and eternal life. Through His death, He took our sins and guilt upon Himself. In His resurrection on the Third Day, He has destroyed death and given us the free gift of life; new Spiritual Life now and Eternal Life later! In Holy Baptism, all sin is forgiven; even Adam's Original Sin that was passed on to us at conception.

¹ Lutherans they teach that since the fall of Adam all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with concupiscence [*evil desires*]; and that this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.

Book of Concord, Augsburg Confession, Article II Original Sin

This hereditary sin is so deep [and horrible] a corruption of nature that *no reason can understand it*, but it must be learned and believed from the revelation of Scriptures.

Book of Concord, Smalcald Articles III.1.3

Through faith in Christ, we have **forgiveness** and **life**; our relationship with the Creator is **restored**, and we have **hope** as we face our problems, pain and health issues. In Christ, we know, believe, and understand that the Creator of everything visible and invisible is our Father in Heaven who cares about the details of our lives.

Because we have been reconciled to the Creator of all life, and we know Him as our Father in Heaven who gives us spiritual and eternal life, we are pro-life people. **God is not the god of death; He is the God of life --- ALL LIFE.** The Lord teaches us to value life², even the life of the unborn. From conception to natural death, people are valuable; their life is important. God teaches us that we are pro-life people because He is a pro-life God.

We are
Pro-Life people
because the Lord
is a
Pro-Life God.

Even though we live in a world that is “pro-choice” – which is really just a *euphemism*³ for “**PRO-DEATH**” – we stand for what God teaches us in His Word, even if we are persecuted for it. Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are pro-life people because He is a pro-life God.

That means that if you have been caught up in abortion somehow or somehow, if you have had one, if you have encouraged someone to have one, or if you have paid for one, then recognize it as sin and **repent!** Renounce it, confess it to God, and know and believe that you are forgiven by the God of grace, who sent Jesus to take all sins upon Himself, even *this one*. Abortion is **not** the unforgivable sin!

The sin of abortion is never “just over” the day it happens. The guilt of abortion remains for years. Don’t let that happen to you: confess your sin to God, and be **absolutely certain** that you are forgiven, restored, and declared “not guilty!” in God’s eyes through the Lord Jesus Christ. **Guilt stops at the cross;** no accusation of your sin will ever be heard in God’s presence --- that’s His promise through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! **In Christ, even the sin of abortion is completely and fully forgiven!** Just as all of your other sins are completely and fully forgiven!

Not only do we know, believe and understand that God the Father is our Pro-Life Creator, but we have learned from Holy Scripture that God the Father **cares about us**

² **LIFE** is the value, ethic and moral taught to us in the Fifth Commandment: *Thou shall not kill*.

³ **EUPHEMISM**: a mild or indirect word or expression *substituted* for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. In this case, “pro-choice” is more agreeable than “pro-death”; and it deflects the reality that abortion kills a child.

and **watches over our lives**. In the Lord's Prayer, we summarize this with the phrase *"give us this day our daily bread."*

God the Father's care for you is seen when He:

Watches over your life

Psalm 121

Defends you from all evil

Psalm 97:10

Provides all you need to support your body and life

Matthew 6:11

Makes all things work for good in your life

Romans 8:28

Listens to and answers your prayers

Psalm 5:3

Strengthens you when you are weak

Isaiah 41:10

Comforts you when you mourn

Psalm 34:18

Guides and directs every step of your life

Proverbs 3:5-6

Gives you His Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13

Empowers you for godly living

Romans 8:11

Assures you of His love and forgiveness

Hebrews 10:22

Gives you hope, peace and security each day

Psalm 62:1-2

Is merciful, and spares you the consequences of your sin

Lamentations 3:22-23 / Micah 7:18-19

We know, believe and understand that God the Father is not only our Pro-Life Creator, but He also cares about us by name and watches over the details of our lives!

One Other Thing.

In 10 Days, it will be Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a time when we “give thanks” to God for all that He does for us. We remember **Who He is** and **what He has done** for us. We praise Him for salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit Who lives within us. We celebrate all the many blessings that the Lord so freely pours into our lives. We thank Him that in Christ He is the God of mercy, peace, and life; and not the God of wrath, judgment and death.

- **You have 10 days before Thanksgiving;** why not spend those 10 days working on a list of the blessings you have received from your Creator and your Father? Have you ever tried to literally “count your blessings?”
- *I have been working on my list for years now. What started as a list of my “top10” blessings is now my list of “top 33” blessing from God's good hand! ☺*

Maybe your list could begin with God the Creator giving you Physical Life; and though faith in His Son Jesus Christ, you have been given Spiritual Life now and Eternal Life later!

**We believe, teach, and confess
that God our Creator and our Father in Heaven
is the God of life!**

We are Pro-Life people because the Lord is a Pro-Life God.

Amen!