



Our legacy, inherited from fellow believers who have walked before us, is a tradition that has always protected and defended human life.

Our responsibility—and opportunity—as Christians and members of the Church is to continue in this tradition and to be prolife. Especially now in a culture of death, the Church must stand and take specific and continuous action to defend all life, from fertilization (conception) to natural death.

The questions for the church today:

What does it mean to be prolife?

What does scripture say it means to be prolife?

The legacy of our Christian faith has been distinctly prolife.

Old Testament:

1. God created life.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:26-28, ESV)

Focus: *God spoke and created man into existence making him in His image with the command to be fruitful and multiply.*

Discussion: *Contrast this biblical truth with our cultural opinions and delusions that an unborn life is a burden or imposition to the lives of the parents.*

2. God instructs His children to choose life so that our children may live.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing, and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days... (Deuteronomy 19-20a)

Focus: *The fullness of our days is determined by God. Because He has chosen life for His children God instructs believers to choose life and to choose life for our offspring. God also instructs how the life of His children should be lived, loving your God, obeying His Word.*

Discussion: *God commanded that we “choose life” not some life but life. How does this impact and support our insistence that all life is precious, sacred, and must be protected—from conception to natural death? Are there any circumstances in which we should choose death instead of life?*

3. God reveals all life begins at conception.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:13-14a)

Focus: *Probably no other scripture points so clearly to the value of the life of a child in the womb as these two short verses which describes God forming and knitting a child together in the mother’s womb. Knitting is a practice which takes skill and is done by hand: there is intimacy between the creator and the created.*

Discussion: *Besides the obvious biblical truth about the unique creation that each person is, how does science confirm that every embryo is also distinct, unique, and fully human from the moment of conception?*

New Testament:

1. The author of life has chosen life.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17)

Focus: *We read in the Old Testament of the sanctity of life and in the New Testament of Christ’s present and continuing role in creation.*

Discussion: *What does it mean that “all things are created through Him and for Him?” And how does this statement negate the pro-abortion claim of “my body, my choice”? Who owns our bodies? Who ultimately owns a child in utero?*

2. God directs action for His followers.

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3)

Focus: *There is the expectations that followers are set apart for the work God has called for them. This work is not always what one may choose but it is the work He has chosen.*

Discussion: *Does every person have a calling—a special and unique purpose to fulfill for life upon this earth? Where does that calling come from and why is that important?*

3. God calls His followers not to the easy path; rather, the eternal destination.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? (Matthew 16:24-26)

Focus: *The cross is a symbol of sacrifice, first by Christ then by Christians. In this sacrifice, followers find life and choose life.*

Discussion: *What did picking up a cross look like in the Early Church? During a time of deep persecution, the early church's growth exploded. The legacy of the early church was compassionate care at great risk.*

The Early Church:

Two historic plagues ravaged the Roman Empire: the Antonine Plague (165-180 A.D.) and the Cyprian Plague (249-262 A.D.). During the first plague, the famous classical physician Galen fled Rome for his country estate where he stayed until the danger subsided. But for those who could not flee, the typical response was to try to avoid any contact with the afflicted, since it was understood that the disease was contagious. Hence, when their first symptom appeared, victims often were thrown into the streets, where the dead and dying lay in piles.

Bishop Dionysius recounted the events in Alexandria, Egypt, during the Cyprian Plague: "At the first onset of the disease, they [pagans] pushed the sufferers away and fled from their dearest, throwing them into the roads before they were dead and treated unburied corpses as dirt, hoping thereby to avert the spread and contagion of the fatal disease."

Despite this, Christians sought to help the sick, even risking their own lives. As Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, put it, "Although this mortality had contributed nothing else, it has especially accomplished this for Christians and servants of God, that we have begun gladly to seek martyrdom while we are learning not to fear death."

What can Christians do?

- **What is the Church's response to the challenges in our culture that wants to indiscriminately end human lives?**
- **What is our responsibility to protect and defend life?**
- **What can the average Christian say and do to actively give witness to life throughout the year?**
- **Why are election cycles so important for Christians?**

Some may be called for greater involvement such as standing in prayer at abortion facilities. Others can serve in pregnancy shelters and the like. All are called to stand for life. American Christians have the unique opportunity to have a voice in resolving the greatest struggle of our time, by knowing which elected representative supports life and mark your election ballot accordingly. This is not a right or left issue; this is not a personal choice issue; this is a moral imperative. This is God's will: elect prolife leaders and insist on prolife legislation.

Prayer

Father of all creation and Lord of life, before the foundation of the world You chose us in Christ to be Your adopted sons and daughters. You have placed each of us, your children, in the position to care for one another, that we may show others the same love You have shown for each of us. We pray, then, for the least among us, the children in the womb.

Eternal Father, it is for You alone to make decisions concerning life and death. Have mercy and grant peace and blessing upon those women who are with child, enable them to find hope and strength in You. Bless those who are sick and whose illness seems irreversible. If it be Your will, restore and lengthen their earthly life; if that not be Your will, Father, then keep each in your loving and compassionate arms and prepare them to commit to Your eternal care. Give each person a repentant heart, and a lively hope that the pain or fear of death may not be cause to waiver in confidence and trust. When the last days on Earth are ended, grant each a joyous entrance into everlasting life with the glorious company of all Your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Leader's Guide

1. List on white board the answers given to the question:

What does it mean to be prolife?

Do so without comment or discussion (allow 5 minutes max). Leave on display during the remainder of class.

2. Create a second list then after each section: solicit answers to the second question:

What does scripture say it means to be prolife?

What can we do? What must we do?

How can we support our Pastor and Leaders in this stand for Life?

Be prepared to provide information and/or voter guides relevant to the 2020 election.

Personalized Prolife Ballot Generator: RTL.org/vote

3. Close in prayer.

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