

New Life
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We are in a sermon series entitled All Things New. Today I am preaching a message entitled A New Life.

There were 3 words used in the New Testament Greek for life.
 Bios – which is physical life – it's where we get our word biology
 Psuche – which is soul life – it's where we get our word psychology
 Zoe – which is spiritual life, or life as God has it.

Jesus said in John 5:24-26

I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.

When we are born we receive bios – physical life.

When we are born again we receive zoe - eternal life – the God-kind of life.

This is the kind of life Jesus mentioned in John 14:6

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the kind of life Jesus mentioned in John 11:25-26

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?

Sounds kind of confusing – but what Jesus is saying is that we will all die physically – biologically. But when we receive Jesus we receive a different kind of life – zoe life – eternal life – and even when we die physically – our spirits live on forever. This is the kind of life Jesus mentioned in John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

When we die it seems like we are swallowed up by death, but 2 Corinthians 5:4 says that when we die, mortality, *these dying bodies, will be swallowed up by life.*

When Jesus died – death did not swallow Him up – His resurrection life and power swallowed death up. And when we die in Christ – we are swallowed up by life! That's because Jesus is our resurrection and our life! But Jesus said in John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Jesus gives life – Satan wants to kill life.
 He wants to kill us physically and spiritually.
 He wants to kill our souls.
 But God is the one who gives us life – spirit, soul and body!

1- God is the giver of new physical life

I was planning on preaching on A New Commandment this week. But I woke up Tuesday morning to the news that the Senate voted down a bill called the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Basically – some people are taking a position so extreme that they don't mind killing babies up to the moment of birth and even after they are born alive.

This is that same old demonic spirit that was around in the days of Moses that caused Pharaoh to kill all the baby boys.

This is that same demonic spirit that was around in the days of Jesus that caused Herod to kill all the baby boys.

That same spirit is the driving force in this movement to kill babies today.

We need to be grounded in what the Bible says about physical life. God is the giver of that life.

Pro-abortionists try to “dehumanize” unborn children by referring to them as a fetus or a lump of tissue. They say humans are not a living person until they are born. That's how they try to justify killing babies. However, the Bible teaches we are given life from God from the moment of conception. God's Word says that He personally made each one of us and has a plan for each life before we are born! Psalm 139:13-16 says:

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

The New Living Translation of Job 10:8-12 says:

You formed me with Your hands; You made me... You guided my conception and formed me in the womb. You clothed me with skin and flesh, and you knit my bones and sinews together. You gave me life...

I believe that is saying God gave us life and it began at conception! In fact – God knew us even before conception! The Message version of Jeremiah 1:5 says:
Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.

I could go on and on with Scriptures like this! The point is that God made us and gave us life in our mother's womb. Before we were born.

Think about when Mary was pregnant with Jesus and she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Luke 1:41 says:

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth told Mary in Luke 1:44

As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Obviously, this baby was more than a fetus – more than a lump of tissue!

Every unborn baby is a human life created in God's image. Killing an unborn baby is a form of homicide. In ancient Israel, the unborn child was granted equal protection under the law. If he lost his life, the one who caused his death must lose his own life. Exodus 21:22-23 says:

If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life...

According to the Bible – life is a gift created by God and it is not to be taken away by abortion. Deuteronomy 30:19 says:

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.

Every single life has value to God. Psalm 127:3 says:

Children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.

But our culture devalues life and devalues children. The World Health Organization estimates that over 56 million babies die from abortion worldwide every year. That's a baby being killed every 2 seconds! In the US there have been over 60 million abortions since 1973. That averages over a million a year!

I know the media has framed this as a women's health issue, but a very low percentage of abortions occur because of health.

The vast majority of women who get abortions are healthy unmarried women in their 20's.

Among married women 4% of pregnancies end in abortion.

Among unmarried women 27% of pregnancies end in abortion.

This is one of the reasons why people should not be having sex outside of marriage.

Speaking of reasons – it’s interesting to see the reasons women give for getting an abortion. As I said, a very low percentage are because of health, incest or rape. The main reasons women give for getting an abortion are:

- I’m not ready for a child
- I can’t afford a child
- A baby would interfere with my education or career

How selfish is that? There are many people who would love to adopt a baby. There’s no need to kill a baby. God says when you kill a baby you are killing His child! Ezekiel 16:20 says:

You have taken your sons and your daughters whom you have borne to Me, and you have sacrificed them to be destroyed.

When we abort a baby, we are killing a child of God! In those days they were sacrificed to idols, and in our day babies are sacrificed to idols of convenience and self.

By the way, I want you to understand that there is a very racist component to abortion.

African American women have the highest rate of abortion in the US.

Among white women, 10% of pregnancies end in abortion.

Among black women, 28% of pregnancies end in abortion.

As a result, though the white population in the U.S. outnumbers the black population 5 to 1, abortion kills close to the same number of black children each day as it does white children. In fact, more members of the black community are killed by abortion each year in the United States than by all other causes combined.

As a result, the black population in American is growing at a slower rate than other ethnic groups. There is no doubt that abortion is a major cause of that. I submit to you that there is a very racist agenda at work here.

The racist roots of the abortion movement prove that it is no accident that abortion has deeply affected the black community.

Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortions in the US. I would encourage you to study the history of Planned Parenthood and its founder, Margaret Sanger. She was a leading spokesperson promoting controlling the birth rate among blacks and others she considered genetically inferior. She was a believer in eugenics, a belief in the possibility of improving the human race by limiting the reproduction of those considered to have genetic defects or

undesirable traits. It comes from a Greek word meaning, “well-born, good stock, of noble race.”

So, the undesirables that Margaret Sanger wanted to eliminate were people considered to be mentally or physically defective and racial groups she considered to be inferior, especially black people.

She started the Negro Project in 1939 to try to stop the growth of the black community. Black pro-life leaders have long insisted that Planned Parenthood purposely places its abortion facilities in or near black neighborhoods.

62% of Planned Parenthood abortion facilities are within walking distance of relatively high Black populations.

79% of Planned Parenthood abortion facilities are within walking distance of relatively high Black and Hispanic populations.

Margaret Sanger was a white supremacist who spoke at KKK meetings.

She made statements like:

Some people are human weeds, reckless breeders who spawn human beings who should never have been born.

Birth control is nothing more or less than weeding out the unfit.

The chief aim of Planned Parenthood is to produce a cleaner race.

Martin Luther King’s niece Alveda said: The most obvious practitioner of racism in the United States today is Planned Parenthood. When we said we would no longer sit on the back of the bus, a place was being reserved for us down at the abortion clinic.

The roots of the abortion movement in America are sick, twisted and evil. They have succeeded in devaluing life in our culture and killing millions of babies.

God takes this seriously! Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things that God hates and that list includes: *...hands that shed innocent blood.*

What can be more innocent than an unborn baby? Surely there are consequences for this. Psalm 106:38-42 says:

They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters... and the land was desecrated by their blood. They defiled themselves by what they did... Therefore the Lord was angry with His people...

I’m sure God is no less angry now! The only way for us to deal with this is to repent of our sin and to place our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross!

Listen – if you were involved in a decision to abort a baby – whether you are a woman or a man – please know that there is no condemnation from us today. But we all must seek God for forgiveness and He will forgive us! We must pray for our nation and the dangerous path we are on! We must do spiritual warfare against the enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy our children! Remember – God is the giver of life! He is the giver of physical life and:

2- God is the giver of new spiritual life

He gives us physical life when we are born and when we are born again we receive a brand-new life! 2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

When we are born again, we are a totally brand-new creation in Christ! The old has gone and the new has come! The old person we were is dead and we are brand new in Christ. All our sins are forgiven and we have a clean slate and a fresh start. Even sins like abortion and racism are forgiven by God.

When we are saved, we have a new life spiritually. But that does not mean everything about us has changed!

Committing our lives to Jesus Christ is the greatest thing that can ever happen to us – but getting saved is the beginning of a process of salvation. The word salvation comes from the Greek word *sozo*, which mean to save, deliver, protect, heal, restore, make whole, to rescue from danger, to keep safe and sound. Salvation begins in our spirits and works its way out into our lives. That's why Philippians 2:12-13 says

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

This is not saying to work FOR salvation! Salvation is a work of God for you and in you – but you must work it out into your life. Salvation starts in the heart, but it does not stop there. Remember, we are made up of spirit, soul and body. Our body is the physical part of us that we see of each other. The soul is composed of the mind, will and emotions. The spirit is the innermost part of us where the Holy Spirit lives.

When we are born again, the instantaneous changes are all spiritual changes. But you still have the same body and the same soul.

Our spirit is saved, but not our soul. It is in the process of being saved. Our souls are the place where we think, feel and decide.

That means we still have thoughts that are sinful. We have emotions that can get out of control. When our will is weak - we give in to things like selfishness or addiction. That's why:

3- God is the giver of new soul life

Many Christians have a major misunderstanding about what happens when they get saved – when they choose to follow Christ. They have a misbelief that becoming a Christian means everything instantly changes. Not true! Some very marvelous and wonderful things do happen when you get saved. You have a new life, new heart and a new destiny. But many things about you are still the same. Your soul still needs saving!

That makes some people wonder if they ever really got saved! What they've not realized is this: getting saved is not the end – it's the beginning of a new life. Just as physical birth is the beginning of a life characterized by growth, so being born again is just the beginning of a lifetime of growth and change as we are transformed into the image of Christ.

God wants to save us – spirit, soul and body! Some of us are saved spiritually, but not mentally or emotionally. If you are going to live like you're saved, you must have your mind, will, emotions and attitudes saved!

You see - our spirits are saved in an instant when we are born again. Our souls are being saved as we are conformed to the image of Christ. In order for your soul to be saved – your spirit must be saved first! But then our souls need saving! James 1:21 says –

Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

James is not talking about getting saved or born again here. He was writing to people who were already believers. Yet he tells people who are already saved that they need saving. And wherever you are in your journey with Christ, you still need saving!

Our spirits are saved because Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Our souls are saved when we take up our cross and follow Him.

Our spirits are saved because Jesus laid down His life for us. Our souls are saved when we lay down our lives for Him.

Our spirits are saved on the basis of faith in Christ. Our souls are saved on the basis of following Christ.

So, when Satan brings up a past sin - you tell him God already saved you from your past and given you new life!

When Satan brings up something you are currently struggling with – you tell him God is saving you from that!

When Satan tries to make you fearful of your future by saying – you say, “God has saved me, God is saving me and God WILL save me!”

Oh, I’ve got a ways to go, but thank God I’m not what I once was!
You see God started something in me – and my Bible says that what God starts God will finish!

God is the author and the finisher of my salvation!
He will never leave me, forsake me, or give up on me!

My God is able to save me to the uttermost!

He saves me past, present and future!

He saves me spirit, soul and body!

He saves me in all times, all places and all circumstances.

God has saved me, God is saving me and God will save me!

Can you thank God for saving you and giving you new life this morning?