



Why Life Is Important

When a man and woman join to create a new life together, science tells us what to expect: Medicine tells us when their unborn baby develops a heartbeat, brainwaves, and nervous system. Biology tells us that their baby is one of a kind, receiving DNA from the mother and father to create a completely unique individual. Sociology tells us that their baby will best thrive with the care of both parents and a caring community of friends and family.

Of course, none of this is big news. Thousands of years before humanity thought of the double helix or social sciences, we recognized that the creation of new life was miraculous and marvelous. We saw that each child was unique and precious. And we knew that they needed a loving environment to reach their full potential. These truths were written on our hearts long before they were confirmed by science.

But in recent generations the world has forgotten—or ignored—these lessons. Our society has been infected by an anti-life ideology, treating its most vulnerable members as disposable objects. Somehow, we have rejected both ancient wisdom and modern science.

Our dismissive attitude toward the beginning of a human life has already affected how we treat the rest of it. Assisted suicide is already legal in 10 states and Washington, DC. Most people think this “procedure” is for terminally ill people who are in a lot of pain, but several European countries have pushed well beyond that, euthanizing both children and adults with disabilities. Even those with psychological challenges like post-traumatic stress are eligible to end their own lives.

Slowly but surely, the world seems intent on cleansing itself by returning to the eugenics horrors of the last century. When we start making lists of people who are too damaged, too sick, or too inconvenient to keep on living, we show how little we have learned from history’s greatest crimes.

But this bleak and barren view of life does not have to be our future. We can recommit ourselves to the idea that all people have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that every life is worth living.

Building a true culture of life will take more than simply ending abortion, as vital as that step is. We must start caring for our fellow citizens at every stage in their journey on this Earth, from womb to tomb. We must design public policy with their needs in mind—not only monetary and medical, but educational, communal, and spiritual.

Whether sick, or disabled, or imprisoned, whether in need or in sadness, whether at life's beginning or its end, we must proclaim: no person is disposable, and every life is precious.

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