

**Victory of the Lamb – Origin Series – Life – Genesis 1:26 and Genesis 2:7  
September 11, 2022 – Pastor Bill Limmer**

Have you noticed the disrespect of human life that is marking our day and time? The low hanging fruit is all the political attack ads that are blanketing our airways. But there is also bullying on the playground, at home sometimes, in the office and on Twitter. There is road rage, racism, swearing, threats, and gossip. There is rolling of the eyes. For all the talk of tolerance, there really isn't much. We seem to live in a time when people say they want to respect life but keeping tripping over people who are different and therefore apparently not worthy of respect. Do you have issues respecting someone who is different than you are? Maybe in the realm of politics, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, addiction, sports, hobbies, school, age.

I think I know why we and others struggle with this. Here is Zoe. **(picture of Zoe)**. Her name means life. She has enough energy to power all of Milwaukee County. She is a doll. I would do anything for her and her grandmother who do even more. She is a gift from God. Did you catch in my description of Zoe of why we struggle respecting others? I will say it again – She is a gift from God. And here is the problem we don't often treat people who act, believe, or think different than we do, as they really are, a gift from God.

Today we are beginning a new series called **Origins. Sermon series slide**. It is a study of the beginning of things as find them in the book of Genesis, which means beginnings. Today we are going to look at the beginning and value of human life and answer this question: **How do we know all people are worthy of love and respect?**

Genesis 1:26 **“Then God said, Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness.”** There is a joke about creation that goes: One day a group of humanistic scientists decided that humanity had come along way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one of them to go and tell God that his services were no longer needed.

The scientist went to God and said, “we have decided we no longer need you. We can clone people, manipulate atoms, build molecules, fly through space and a whole lot of other things. We no longer need you. We will take it from here.

God listened patiently because that is who God is. After the scientist was done talking, God said, "Very well. How about this? Before I leave you to yourself. Let's just check on your abilities. Why don't we have a human making contest. Just like I did back in the Old days with Adam." The scientist sure of himself said, "no problem." God said to him, you say "go" when you are ready

So they stood side by side on the sandy beach, and the scientist, yelled "go." And they both bent down and picked up some sand. But God looked over and said, "uh, uh. Put that down. Use your own sand. The point – God made us. **Psalm 139:13,14 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

Legos or puzzle visual aid. 206 piece puzzle. How long do you think it would take for you to put together a 206 piece puzzle. What if you had to construct something that 206 pieces. Sounds like a double IKEA nightmare to me.

Did you know, do you recall that the human body is made up of 206 bones. We often take our bodies for granted. We don't realize what is going on. We have 206 bones. Just like a Lego house is made up of many small pieces, proteins are made up of lots of tiny building blocks. These building blocks are called amino acids. To build a protein, first the amino acids are connected into long chains. These chains of amino acid building blocks can then fold into all types of shapes. The protein laminin holds our body together. We have 120 million rods in our eyes and 6 million cones. These 120 million rods and 6 million cones help to discover at least 100k different colors. Do you know what the fastest muscle in your body is? It is the eye. "A blink typically can last 100-150 milliseconds. This is why we say when something happens quickly, 'in the blink of an eye!'" Our hearts will be around 4K times in this hour of worship and over 2 billion times in our lifetime on average. The average person will take around 600 million breaths in a lifetime. According to Medical Director of H3Health, Jeff Foster, we have 100K miles of blood vessels compacted beneath our largest organ the skin Dr. Foster also states that we produce 25 million cells every day, hour, minute, second. Mind blown!

**How do we know all people are worthy of love and respect? 1. God made the human body amazing.**

Genesis 2:7 **Then the LORD God formed a man<sup>[e]</sup> from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.**

In addition to all the amazing things about our body we have one more thing deep inside that makes us different than everything else on this planet. We have a soul. When God breathed into the first human being that human being became animated, breathing conscious, a living being, a spiritual being, a being with a soul.

What is a soul?

If you have trouble making a decision, you might be told to do some soul \_\_\_\_\_ (searching.) Single people may look for a partner who is their soul \_\_\_\_\_ (mate). Spoiler alert - the concept of a soul mate is not found in Scripture. You can eat soul \_\_\_\_\_ (food). You can even do a spin class called soul \_\_\_\_\_ (cycle). But none of those things tell us what a soul is.

God breathed the breath of life. (Balloon). The breath of life was not merely a boost of oxygen. It wasn't a version of CPR to get the lungs and heart going. This was an intimate connection between the creator and his creation. It is relationship..

The soul is that part of us that God speaks to through his Word that brings us to faith. The soul is that part of us responds to God. Our soul connects us to our creator and allows for a trusting relationship. It links us to God.

The value of the soul. The soul is extraordinarily valuable because it is eternal. Matthew 16:26 **What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?** Jesus is telling us that a single soul is more valuable than the whole world! Let that sink in.

**How do we know all people are worthy of love and respect? 2. God made us with an eternal soul.**

Jesus values all life, each life, your life, and mine. No matter the past, present, or future of that life. Here are some example from Scripture. Man living in the tombs – Rejected by others, Jesus reaches out to the one & delivers him from demon possession. Jesus understood his value. The woman at the well, distraught, at best living a different life than she had hoped. Jesus understood her value and offered

her living water. Doubting Thomas. Moses, the 10 Commandments and Murder guy. The meek and mild. The hurting. The women who was sick for more than a decade. And the same is true for today. Jesus values and loves all life. The little child just conceived in the womb. He values the little infant aborted. He cares about & finds value in the elderly or terminally ill. He values the world class athlete the exact same way he values the one confined to a wheel chair.

Our first parents were created in the **image of God**. That is to say that their attributes were in perfect harmony with God. Their emotions were naturally drawn to God and his will. Their will was perfectly free and able to love God and choose obedience to God and his Word and will and to refuse sin and evil. Their reason was able to ponder the goodness of God, consider his Word, and chart a course that that they knew would delight their Creator. They were free from sin and all its consequences and were able to stay that way. The most important component of the image of God, was his holiness and righteousness. It was this holiness and righteousness that made their bodies along with their souls immortal. There was no flaw or fault in them that might dispose them to sin. There was no flaw or fault in the that might doom them to death. Could there have been any greater way for God to show his love to them that to give them his own likeness and image. God called them not just good, but very good! (Grace Abounds 168-170)

**How do we know all people are worthy of love and respect? 3. We are made in the image of God.**

Ephesians 2:10 **We are God's handiwork**. Handiwork is the Greek word – poiama – that which is made, work, a work or art, especially a poetic piece of work. The artist determines the value. My artwork vs Rembrandt. You are God's poem. You are God's art work. So is everyone else too. All people are God's art work.

Jacky sews a lot. She gets a lot of enjoyment sewing for her nephews and nieces and now of course her granddaughter. One of the things she used to do when she sewed for our kids when they were little is she would put a tag in the back neckline or in the back waistline that said, **"Made with love by Mom."**

If being made with an amazing body isn't enough for you, if having a soul that is more valuable than the whole world isn't enough for you, in the image of God isn't enough for you, there is still the cross to make it really clear, where God's

Son, Jesus, pours out of his blood to prove his love and your value to you. God says I love and value you this much. Isaiah 49:16 **See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;** You are, Made and redeemed with love by God.”

Take away point – look in the mirror everyday – consider how you were and who you were made by. And when you go out into your day to day and you see people who are different than consider how they were made and who they were made by and strive to love them with the love that God loves you.