

Genesis 1:26-27 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness<sup>2</sup>: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he [God] him [man]; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Genesis 3:1, 4-7 *Now the serpent was more subtle [tricky] than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, "Yea, hath God said, 'Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ... <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, "Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof [that as soon as you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. <sup>7</sup> And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons [something to cover themselves].*

Gen 4:7-10 *"If thou [Cain] doest well, shalt thou not be accepted [by God]? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door [sin is hiding but very close, ready to overpower you]. And unto thee shall be his [sin's] desire, and thou shalt rule over him [but you must rule over it]. <sup>8</sup> And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew [killed] him. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said unto Cain, "Where is Abel thy brother?" And he said, "I know not: Am I my brother's keeper [Am I responsible for everything my brother does]?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground."*

## I. Introduction: World view

A. Each individual has a way of mentally making sense of the events in their life. This is often referred to as a 'world view.'

1. World view builds beliefs & ideas into a structure to fit events of life, to give meaning to life & to think about the future

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<sup>1</sup> All hyperlinks in these notes are for reference only and are not an endorsement by the note-takers or Lancaster Baptist Church for any product or service. The hyperlinks are not the only source of this information, and are provided as a convenience for the intended audience (members of the Vital Signs Connection Group) exclusively.

<sup>2</sup> "...God said, "Let us...in our image...after our likeness..." This sentence can be confusing because 'God' is singular, but He says 'let us;' in our;' and 'after our,' all plural. Something that does not come through in the English language is that the word *God* in the original language (Hebrew) is always plural (Elohim). This is a curiosity, but is consistent. The Hebrew word for 'man' can be either singular or plural, depending on context.

2. A world view tries to fit everything into a system that makes sense and gives purpose.
3. A world view is different from philosophy. Philosophy asks questions such as “What is truth?”, “What is good?”, “What is real?”, “What is knowledge?”, “What are ethics (morals)?”, “What is man?” (a – Where did man come from? b – What is the meaning of life? c – Is there life after death?), “Does man have free will?”, and it tries to find the foundation of existence. A world-view takes the answers to all these questions and tries to form a system so that all these answers fit into a consistent framework.
4. Beliefs & ideas form world-views. Wrong world-views have consequences

B. Biblical world-view

1. Human life is always given supreme value in a Biblical world view.
2. A Biblical world-view is based on the revelation of God found in the Bible. It seeks to make sense of things such good & evil, values, life & death. See table below for comparison of three different world-views.

C. Different world views produce very different behaviors. Consider the person who steals something that another person has worked for:

1. The Eastern mindset views this person’s stealing as an indication that this person does not want to unite with his god(s) in seeking ultimate reality. Human punishment (government-imposed) is provided to help him along towards his destiny
2. The Evolutionist views stealing (and escaping any punishment) as an indication that they are more fit to survive. They will pass on this trait for future generations of their own genes to help them survive. Any punishment is simply a social value adopted by society-at-large for the group (rather than the individual) to survive.
3. The Christian mindset views stealing as a violation of God’s absolute law “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15; Romans 13:9). The individual made a conscious choice to break this law knowing that it was wrong. God calls stealing sin. He should receive a punishment fitting the crime, and must learn that this behavior will not be tolerated.

### Examples of Different World-views

World view →	Eastern/Hindu	Evolutionist	Christian
Origin of Life	The actual origin is unimportant, but must have happened.	Unguided natural phenomenon	Purposeful design with a specifically desired outcome
Purpose of Life	To learn all the lessons needed to reach a perfect level of maturity	None, except as adopted by an individual for him/herself	To testify of God's existence, His wisdom, knowledge, and power (Romans 1:20)
Concept of God	A non-communicating impersonal, and unknowable set of deities who make decisions on the fate of people	An imaginary being created to make people think there is accountability for wrong actions	A Person Who is a holy, just, merciful, gracious, and accessible first-cause.
Purpose of mankind	To become one with ultimate reality (god)	A cosmological accident	To glorify God and fellowship with Him
Communication to God	By prayers and sacrifices, usually to idols	Not necessary	Through prayer and behavior
Communication from God	In uncertain form through the circumstances of life	Not possible	Written instructions, the Holy Spirit, and trials in life
Value of Life	Human life is supreme, but all life has value to learn lessons for self-improvement	All life has equal value, since it is derived from the same process. Human laws are socially-developed values	The most valuable thing in existence
Salvation	Through self-effort to be a "better" person. No absolute standard exists, and no certain future is promised	Survival of those life-forms able to impose their will on others and their environment for the longest period	By grace through faith in the bloody sacrifice of the innocent Jesus in the place of each sinful individual

After the end of Life	If all lessons are learned, life in a wonderful place; if more lessons are needed, your life is recycled to learn from different experiences	Nothing	By choice, to live in paradise glorifying God forever; by default, separated from God eternally
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D. What is human life?

1. Very controversial, emotional, & debated topic
2. When does life begin?
3. Remember that God's grace, mercy, & love is very deep

II. Creation – Human Life Is Formed in God's Image

A. Life has sacred value

1. Sacred: life belongs to God
2. What makes humans different than animals?
  - a. Only humans are said to be made in God's image, Genesis 1:26-27
  - b. God personally formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into him (the woman was formed from the man's rib) Genesis 2:7, 21-22
  - c. God allowed man to name all the creatures on the earth, Genesis 2:19-20
  - d. Humans can bless God  
 Psalm 103:1-2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*
  - e. Humans are spiritual beings & reflections of God image  
 Job 33:4 *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*
  - f. Humans also reflect some of God's nature & character  
 Psalm 36:9 *For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*
  - g. Humans also have authority over the earth, Genesis 1:28
  - h. Only humans can worship (either the One True God or some substitute idol)

- i. Only humans are conscious of sin, Romans 3:23
- j. God died to redeem only people, John 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:15

B. Life has specific beginning

1. Life begins at conception in the womb

Psalm 139:13-14 *For thou [God] hast possessed my reins [have assembled all the different parts inside of me]: thou hast covered me [knit me together] in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

2. God knew Jeremiah even before he was conceived

Jeremiah 1:5 *Before I [God] formed thee [Jeremiah] in the belly [of my mother] I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee [I gave you the job of being] a prophet unto the nations.*

3. Men received punishment for hurting an unborn child

Exodus 21:22-25 *If men strive [fight], and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her [so that she miscarries the child], and yet no mischief follow [and the woman is not harmed]: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. <sup>23</sup> And if any mischief follow [if the woman is harmed or dies], then thou shalt give life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

4. Elizabeth's unborn child jumped in her womb when Mary greeted her. This was a conscious act of an unborn person separate from his mother.

Luke 1:36, 41 *And, behold, thy [Mary's] cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month [of her pregnancy] with her, who was called barren. ... <sup>41</sup> And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the **babe** [who would later be known as John the Baptist] leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:*

5. Bible makes no distinction between an unborn child or a child after birth. Compare the word 'babe' (referring to an unborn child) in Luke 1:41 with the same word referring to the child Jesus just after birth (both verses have the same author).

Luke 2:16 *And they [the shepherds] came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the **babe** lying in a manger.*

C. Life has special purpose

1. For the glory of God

Isaiah 43:7 *Even every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

2. Life is precious, sacred gift from God

III. Fall of Mankind into Sin

A. Do humans still have the image of God?

1. Humans continue to have God's image, but like fractured glass. A broken mirror will still reflect the face of someone looking at it, but the image is distorted. In the same way, God's image is distorted in people by sin

Genesis 9:6 *Whoso sheddeth man's blood* [Anyone who kills another person], *by man shall his blood be shed* [will be put to death by other people]: **for in the image of God made he man.**

2. Death passed on all men

Romans 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man* [Adam] *sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

3. Humans are influenced by Satan's kingdom of disobedience, further distorting God's image

Ephesian 2:2 *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world* [Before you were saved, you Ephesians lived like everyone else in the world], *according to the prince of the power of the air* [Satan], *the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

B. Humans demonstrate their sinful nature

1. An example: Secular article in *Salon* magazine by Mary Elizabeth Williams titled "[So What If Abortion Ends Life?](#)"

- a. She believes that life begins at conception (that the thing growing inside her is actually a human being)
- b. She believes that a fetus (unborn child) is a life worth sacrificing (aborted) if the mother judges that her life will be sufficiently improved.
- c. She believes that this decision is hers alone to make
- d. Her belief is the opposite of God's self-sacrificing nature (the image of God is more difficult to identify)

2. Christian stands on the authority of Scripture (Bible)

John 3:19 *And this is the condemnation [of the human race], that light is come into the world [in the person of Jesus Christ], and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

3. Scripture agrees about fallen human nature

a. Bible talks about truth & lies

Romans 1:25 **Who** [people who suppress the Truth that God reveals] **changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature** [idols made to look like creatures God created] **more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

b. Reign of death show itself in human society when Cain murdered Abel his brother – Gen 4:7-10 (above)

c. Sinners multiply their sin

Romans 1:32 *Who* [people who suppress the Truth that God reveals] *knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them* [but encourage other people to join them in their evil deeds].

IV. How Should Christians Respond?

A. Respond with clarity (truth)

1. God's Word gives truthful clarity

2. Christians need to speak clearly where God speaks

3. Scientific evidence agrees with the Bible. Some facts about human reproduction:

a. The clearest point of life's beginning is at conception – the complete set of 46 human chromosomes (23 from the mother, 23 from the father)

b. At 3 weeks - heartbeat

c. At 5 weeks – eyes, legs & hands develop

d. At 6 weeks – mind's brain waves

e. At 7 weeks – finger prints & every body organ already developed

f. At 10 weeks – facial expressions

g. At 3 months, hand can hold things

h. At 4 months, baby dreams during sleep cycles

i. Viability: when unborn can survive outside the womb – now at 20 weeks (5 months)

4. Human conscience agrees
  - a. Several ultrasound vans in “Save the Stork” organization show 84% of women seeing ultrasound decide to keep unborn child
  - b. Abby Johnson now pro-life proponent (former Planned Parenthood clinic director). Read the book or see the video (sorry, not free) “[Unplanned](#)” ([Video](#))
  - c. Pro Life – Pro Choice controversies about abortion are prominent in political races nationwide
5. Abortion industry agrees
  - a. Abortions due to rape or incest only about less than 1% according to Guttmacher Institute. Justifying abortion for these causes is to punish the child for the crime of the parent. Justice would demand that we punish the offender in the case of rape or incest
  - b. Documented cases of live births during abortion procedures. (See the book “[Gianna: Aborted, and lived to tell about it](#)” for a first-hand account; written by the woman who was saved after surviving an abortion.)
  - c. In the United States alone there are at least 210 documented cases of children surviving abortions over the almost five decades that abortion has been legal.

B. Respond with conviction

1. God hates those shedding innocent blood & a false witness

Proverbs 6:16-19 *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and **hands that shed innocent blood**, <sup>18</sup> An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations [people who scheme to do wicked things], *feet that be swift in running to mischief* [people who can't wait to do wrong], <sup>19</sup> **A false witness that speaketh lies**, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

2. Abortion creates second victim (besides the unborn child) in a pregnancy: the mother who has to deal with the guilt.
3. Explain how abortion is industry of death
4. Speak for those who cannot speak – such as the unborn child

Proverbs 31:9 **Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.**

Psalm 94:16-17 *Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity? <sup>17</sup> Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.*



C. Respond with compassion

1. Compassion is conviction converted into action
2. Actions Christians can do
  - a. Pray
  - b. Share the gospel of hope
  - c. Speak the truth (in love)
  - d. Adopt unwanted children
  - e. Educate those around you
  - f. Volunteer our services & partner with like-minded people
  - g. Vote for pro-life candidates

V. Conclusion

- A. God sent His Son to ransom people out of spiritual slavery, including the sin of abortion

John 3:17 *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.***

- B. An unborn child was the focus of the first gospel message in ancient times

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity [a state of continual conflict] **between thee** [the serpent, Satan] **and the woman** [Eve], **and between thy seed and her seed**<sup>3</sup> [Jesus]; *it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

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<sup>3</sup> Jesus is the only person who was born from the "...seed of the woman..." (Galatians 4:4). All other people have had a human father. This verse in Genesis is the first reference of the battle between Jesus (the seed of the woman) and Satan, the serpent (as identified in Revelation 20:2) for the lives of people, including the unborn.