



CHRISTIANITY Q&A "What Is the Sanctity of Life?"

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In recent years there has been a tendency to talk about the "quality of life" rather than the "sanctity of life." Without in any way suggesting that quality of life is without importance, we need to understand the change of emphasis and where it might lead.

I. The Importance of the "Sanctity of Life" Position.

- A. Man is created in the divine image. Genesis 1:26-28
 - 1. Intelligence: planning, executing, evaluating—"Let there be..."
 - 2. Creativity: imagination, production—"It was so...very good."
 - 3. Leadership: develop, direct—"Have dominion."
 - 4. Community: togetherness, related—"Let us..."
- B. Man is capable of divine fellowship.
 - 1. Ability to know God – mind.
 - 2. Capacity to love God – emotion.
 - 3. Capability to obey God – will.
- C. Man is called to divine purpose.
 - 1. To glorify God...
 - 2. And to enjoy Him forever.

Summary: Man's significance determined by reference to God.

II. The Impact of the "Quality of Life" Position.

- A. The introduction of secularization.
 - 1. Theism: faith in a God of order leading to reverent scientific enquiry.
 - 2. Deism: faith in an "absentee-landlord" God.
 - 3. Secularism: faith in man who has superseded God.
- B. The causes of secularization.
 - 1. Attraction – to attractive alternatives.
 - 2. Reaction – to religious shortcomings.
 - 3. Distraction – by selfish considerations.
- C. The impact of secularization.
 - 1. Man's view of God.
 - a. Does not exist – but pray to Him occasionally.
 - b. Does exist – but don't pray to Him.
 - 2. Man's view of man.
 - a. A machine?
 - b. A naked ape?
 - c. A number?
 - d. A collection of tissues?

Summary: Man's significance determined by society.

III. The Implications of the Trend.

- A. Awareness is mandatory.
 - 1. Personally. 2. Societally. 3. Legislatively.
- B. Conviction is necessary.
 - 1. Opposing that which dehumanizes man.
 - 2. Exposing that which honors man – theistic humanism.
- C. Action is appropriate.
 - 1. Abortion? 4. Arms limitation? 7. World Economy?
 - 2. Pornography? 5. Injustice? 8. Resource utilization?
 - 3. World famine? 6. Environment?