

“God Loves Life”

In Proverbs 8:27-31, Scripture reveals God’s wisdom demonstrated by the great work of creation. Like a skilled craftsman, God wisely created all things according to their kind. In fact, God was very satisfied with creation, echoing His declaration that His work is good (Gen. 1:31).

As the crown of His creation, God created men and women in His image. (Men and women are the original name, image, and likeness deals.) Even after the fall, God demonstrates His love for life. John 1:14 tells us, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” If God hated life, why did He take on flesh? God loves life. And Jesus came to restore life, and to give life. And the Spirit, as professed in the 4th century Nicene Creed, is the “Giver of life”, proceeding from the Father and the Son.

In Jeremiah 29:7, the Lord writes to His people in exile, “Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile.” As God’s people 2500 years later, Christians must still heed this command to seek the welfare of the city. How is this done? One way this can be done is by bearing witness to the fundamental truth that God loves life.

For example, Scripture reveals that “children are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). This high regard for children is affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 18. He warns against despising “little ones” or treating them with contempt. Jesus just makes a simple point: God cares for his own.

In another passage, Jesus says, “Whatever you do for the least of these you did it to me” (Matt. 25:40). The “least of these” does not refer to the least in God’s sight. The least are those whom society considers less important. They are the ones deemed dispensable. Because they are considered the least, they are also the most vulnerable. Yet, Jesus identifies himself with the least. Furthermore, how they are treated reflects how Jesus is treated. That’s a sobering thought.

Eric Voegelin once said, “The murder of God is not followed by the superman, but by the murder of man.” He claimed that if there is no God, it will bring human destruction, not human flourishing. If the dignity of humanity is given by humankind, then the dignity of humankind can also be taken away by humankind. But Scripture reveals men and women made in the image of God. No act of men or women can take away that dignity because it didn’t come from them.

Scripture gives a high and noble view of humanity as made in the image and likeness of God. Bearing witness to this truth is a way to seek the welfare of the city.

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